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Dignity and Sorrow in Troubled States

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Cover Photo: Tajikistan 93 - R. Job/MSF

READEX FICHE

Editorial

Deux jeunes femmes se font face, une machette à la main. L'une d'elles se jette sur l'autre, et lui tranche la gorge. Pourtant, elles auraient pu se parler à défaut de faire la paix : chacune portait un enfant sur le dos et elles appartenaient à un même pays. Mais pas à la même ethnie.

Ce témoignage n'est certes pas une scène de la vie ordinaire. Mais il reflète la violence qui est devenue le quotidien de centaines de milliers de Rwandais depuis que la folie de tuer s'est emparée de tout un pays alors que l'on n'aura jamais autant parlé de la liberté et de la dignité de l'être humain.

Le Rwanda, tragique théâtre d'affrontements d'une rare violence depuis la mort de son Président, Juvénal Habyarimana, et celle de Cyprien Ntaryamina, Président du Burundi le 6 avril. Le pays est à feu et à sang et les massacres de Hutus et de Tutsis auraient déjà fait plusieurs centaines de milliers de morts. Les récits rapportés par des témoins directs ainsi que les images retransmises par les médias décrivent des situations d'horreur où les mots charnier, boucherie, barbarie, se résument en un tragique constat : nous assistons à ce que la session extraordinaire de la Commission des droits de l'homme des Nations Unies a qualifié d'actes de génocide.

L'actualité nous rapporte hélas la multiplication de ce type d'actes dans un nombre grandissant de pays. Plus aucune région du monde n'est désormais épargnée. L'Europe est redevenue un continent à risque. Les hommes s'y massacrent comme ailleurs et les enfants et les femmes sont toujours, comme ailleurs, les premières victimes.

Photo: UNHCR/P. Moumtzis

Fuyant les violences ethniques, près de 250 000 Rwandais ont franchi la frontière tanzanienne en 24 heures. C'est l'exode le plus rapide et le plus massif dont le HCR ait jamais été témoin.

Un orphelin de plus, une mère en moins, aujourd'hui au Rwanda ... ailleurs demain ... Drames d'une vie au quotidien à l'aube d'un nouveau siècle où l'espoir est mal à l'aise. Jusqu'où les hommes iront-ils dans la destruction de ce qu'ils ont créé? Jusqu'à quand la communauté internationale gardera-elle les yeux fermés face à l'insoutenable spectacle de millions de vies massacrées alors qu'elle parle si souvent et si fort pour dénoncer les violations sans cesse répétées des droits de l'humanité, quand trop de lieux dans le monde, aujourd'hui, ressemblent à des charniers?

Tajikistan: UN provides aid in a forgotten conflict

Severe internal strife has plagued Tajikistan since the break-up of the former Soviet Union, but the country's tragic situation has gone largely unnoticed by the outside world. During the last two years the death toll has reportedly exceeded 30,000; more than 600,000 people are directly affected by the war.

The United Nations launched a Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Tajikistan on 6 April 1994, covering the period April - December 1994. The humanitarian assistance programme expressed by the Appeal reflects the conclusions of a United Nations Inter-Agency assessment mission, led by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and composed of participants from UNHCR, UNDP, FAO, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO and IOM, which visited Tajikistan in February 1994. The following was written for DHA News by Vladislav Savic, from DHA's Special Emergency Programme for the Newly Independent States, who was a member of the mission.

We parked our car with its distinctive UN logo in an almost totally ruined village south of Kabodijon in Khatlon Province, not far from the Afghanistan border. About twenty people emerged from the ruins, once their homes, and formed a circle around us. They watched us nervously, following us as we inspected their partially or totally destroyed houses.

The village headman, a bearded bent old man dressed in the traditional multicolored kaftan and carrying a stick, came forward and asked "What's happening? Is something the matter?" Gradually their anxiety disappeared as we explained who we were, and that we had come to see their village and assess what help the UN could give them.

One of our UN colleagues working in Khatlon explained that this is typical of the unease still experienced by the villagers, who feel that further disasters could befall them. The group that had gathered round us belonged to the Garm clan, an ethnic minority group in Khatlon Province.

Forced to flee

In one of the most violent conflicts which followed in the wake of the break-up of the Soviet Union, ethnic groups and clans fought for power in Tajikistan. The Garm clan suffered at the hands of the Kuljabis who have the most influence with the Government and who form the majority of the population in Khatlon Province. Most of the people we met that day had been forced to flee to other parts of Tajikistan or over the border into Afghanistan to avoid persecution and death.

When the fighting died down in the summer and autumn of 1993, the work of repatriation began. UNHCR, already present in the country, was able to obtain from the Tajik Government a guarantee of security for all those wanting to return home. It was then necessary to convince the refugees that it was safe to return and that they would not be harmed. Although several incidents occurred in the initial stages, the project has been successful. Most of the half-million internally displaced people and refugees from Khatlon Province have already returned to their homes. The visit by the Mission to this devastated village and to a number of other sites showed us that the returnees are still very frightened.

After seeing the destruction and reading reports of the 30,000 people who died in the ethnic conflicts, it is easy to grasp the fear of the village elder and his group. Most of those who returned home have terrible memories of the fighting. Every day, they were reminded of their fragile situation; most of them no longer had a house but simply a pile of rubble which had once been their home. They were living in dwellings without roofs or windows and when we visited them in early February, the temperature in this mountainous region was close to freezing. Thirty kilometres away a snow storm was blowing.

A 30 year-old mother of five told us that 'they' had murdered her husband and she felt insecure. She began to explain that she belonged to the Pamiri clan, another ethnic minority group that had been persecuted during the civil strife, but she quickly fell

silent when she saw other people, not UN representatives, joining our group. When we asked her who 'they' were, she glanced around apprehensively and we realised we should not press her to answer.

The Mission also visited a mosque which was full of homeless people. They told us that they did not dare return to their villages for fear of reprisals. However, many were glad that a number of UN organizations were now established in the area. They felt that a UN presence offered them some guarantee of safety. Most of these people had direct contact with UNHCR, which began a project in 1993 to repair 17,000 houses destroyed during the civil strife.

While the members of the Mission were well protected from the cold, the returnees were poorly clothed. Some of the children were wearing worn-out sandals and socks in rags; others had no shoes at all. "We no longer have any income, no money to buy food or anything else we need," said Said, father of 14 children.

This barefoot child stands in a destroyed village outside Kabodjon in early February 1994. The temperature was 2° Celsius.
Photo: V. Savic/DHA

Cramped, scared and destitute

Said's entire family was living in a single room of about 20 square metres. Pieces of cloth hung in the windows to replace the glass smashed during the fighting. They were surviving almost exclusively on food rations distributed by WFP via UNHCR. Said and his wife, Khaireneso, had come from Garm valley and settled in Khatlon. When the fighting reached their village at the beginning of 1992, they fled first back to Garm. Things were no calmer there, so they moved on to the capital, Dushanbe, where they lived "in terror" for three months before daring to return to their house in this village outside the town of Kurgan-Tjube. On their return, they found the house had been almost completely demolished by "neighbours," members of the Kuljabi clan.

The pattern was the same everywhere. Unwanted families were driven away and their homes destroyed, ensuring they would have nothing to return to. Before the conflict, Said and his family worked on the nearby Kolkhoz (collective farm). Today, there is no work available for any of them. "Nobody in our village is working any more," explains Said. "There is no work available for anyone here since nothing is being produced any more".

In the same house -- in the cellar and in other windowless rooms -- a further 80-90 people were living. Said was the only man we met; all the other adults were women, often widows. Most of the children were young. One of the women took us down into the dark cold cellar, where 47 women and children were living in an area of about 25 square meters. The stench was overpowering. She pointed to one of her 12 children, a boy about ten years old, and said, "Help me, this sore will not heal and he doesn't want to eat anything". The boy had an ugly sore on his mouth and looked undernourished. His mother explained that she could not take him to see a doctor since there was no means of transport. There is a shortage of fuel in Tajikistan; petrol is almost impossible to obtain, and the village lies about 20 kilometres from the nearest health care unit.

Almost all the medical clinics in the conflict areas have been destroyed and, even if the nearest hospital can be reached, there is no guarantee that her child would receive adequate treatment. The hospitals and clinics suffer from an acute shortage of medicines and other basic medical equipment.

Economic and social destruction

In situations of unrest and conflict it is frequently the children who suffer the most. Tajikistan is no exception. We visited a couple of schools only a few kilometres from the border with Afghanistan. The sight was depressing. In one of the largest schools all the windows were blown out as result of the fighting.

The children sat in an icy classroom, only four or five degrees above freezing, wearing all the clothes they owned to keep out the cold. Shivering, they responded to their teacher's questions. There was only one school-book, which they all shared. Their education was suffering not only from the cold and the lack of books, pens and paper, but from the destruction of the whole education system, the result of the mass exodus of academically-trained people from Tajikistan.

The conflict and its aftermath have destroyed the basic social and economic structure of Tajikistan. Developments in other republics of the former Soviet Union have also had a negative influence on the country. The chronic shortage of fuel forces factories into idleness. Materials are no longer available. Inflation is rampant and unemployment is increasing at an alarming pace.

Compounding the deteriorating situation is the relative failure of last year's cotton crop, Khatlon Province's principal product and Tajikistan's main source of foreign exchange. Cash is currently not available at the banks and salaries have not been paid, or only partially, for several months.

Tajikistan is slipping deeper into crisis as the delivery of promised banknotes is delayed, according to Tajik officials. Tajikistan dumped its Soviet-era rouble currency in January 1994 but has not yet received sufficient new Russian roubles to replace the notes withdrawn from circulation. The Chairman of the Central Bank of Tajikistan was

Most of Tajikistan's six million people have been affected by deteriorating socio-economic conditions. The UN will target the 605,000 most seriously-affected people for assistance in 1994.

Insecurity: a way of life for the people and country of Tajikistan

Tajikistan split from the Soviet Union with many of its internal problems unsolved. One problem which has become more pressing in recent months is the question of security, both individual and national. Within Tajikistan, the crime rate has soared and criminal activity has become more visible. On the borders, the security risks presented by Tajikistan's unstable neighbours are becoming more worrisome.

The increase in crime and anarchy is terrifying the population, especially after nightfall. Streets become completely deserted, both in the towns and the villages. Most of the locally-recruited UN drivers refuse to work in the evening and at night, even when driving UN-marked vehicles.

The local "mafia" and other armed groups in Dushanbe have terrorised the population. An interpreter gave us a guided tour of the town centre to show the extent of the lawlessness. Without difficulty, he pointed out the different criminal gangs who carry on their black-market activities in the town's main streets, undisturbed by the authorities.

The "mafia" dominates the sale of the few items which are available outside the state-controlled shops. The ordinary shops are almost completely empty and the few goods on the shelves cannot be bought by anyone with a normal income. Most pharmacies are empty; however a small assortment of medicines, usually past their sell-by date can be bought for astronomical prices on the black market.

Continued and increased UN presence is needed to further stabilise the situation in the country before social unrest and ethnic rivalries again create conditions for violent conflict. Furthermore, stability in Tajikistan is central to equilibrium in the whole region. The country has borders with Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and China. It is an open secret that several of the former Soviet republics in the region are concerned that developments in Afghanistan and Tajikistan might spread to surrounding territories.

The fighting in Afghanistan in recent months has affected all the Central Asian republics to some degree. There have been regular serious incidents along the Afghan-Tajik border which is guarded by troops from the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan as well as Tajik Government soldiers. There are approximately 5,000 Tajik guerillas based on the Afghan side of the border, and frequent political assaults still take place within Tajikistan itself.

Returnees, mostly women and children, live here. All houses in the village have been totally or partially destroyed.
Photo: R. Job/MSF

quoted on television as saying that industry was operating at one-third capacity, partly because of a cash shortage. During our visit in February 1994, several days passed without any cash being available in the Central Bank.

Social benefits, especially for pensioners, displaced people and children of low-income families, are increasingly limited. Agricultural production has been well below the average for two years due to the conflict, the 1993 floods, and a shortage of essential inputs in this, the poorest of the former Soviet Republics.

The Government has introduced subsidised bread rationing and has already made arrangements to import 700,000 MT of cereals in 1994, as well as requesting credit to meet the shortfall. However, given currency problems and lack of fuel for efficient distribution, Government bread subsidies are expected to fall short of targets.

Most of Tajikistan's six million people have been affected by the deteriorating socio-economic conditions within the country. Nevertheless, the Mission reviewed the current situation in the country and agreed, after consultations with Government officials, UN Agency and NGO representatives, and returnees, that the 605,000 most severely-affected people should be targeted for UN assistance throughout 1994.

The needs of these people are enormous and it is important that the international community answers the call for help before the situation deteriorates further, with catastrophic consequences. The UN Mission visited Tajikistan during the winter and saw for themselves how the displaced persons suffered in the cold. The heat of summer is no less of a problem; UN representatives who have worked in the country during the summer report that serious cases of diarrhoea are common at that time.

A UN staff member in the Khatlon Province told us, "We saw children dehydrating in front of our eyes in the scorching summer heat which can reach 40 degrees Celsius. Children were dying like flies in some country districts. Their parents could not take them to hospitals, because of the shortage of petrol". Infant mortality rates have increased and the outbreak of disease, including cholera, remains a serious threat. Polluted drinking water and the poor condition of piped water supplies are the principal causes of such epidemics. ■

Troubled States in the Caucasus

The situation in the Trans-Caucasus countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia has worsened through 1993 and early 1994. The combination of deep economic recession and rampant inflation, protracted conflicts and political instability, has led to a continued large-scale population displacement across the region and sharp increases in the number of people requiring emergency assistance. All three countries are still reeling from the impact of the political and economic upheavals which followed Independence. The United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Caucasus, issued in April 1994 following a DHA-led inter-agency mission in March, covers a one year period to the end of March 1995 and provides a comprehensive overview of the problems and needs of the Caucasus region.

Armenia: war and blockade bring the country to a standstill

Armed conflict has led to mass movements of people and the closure of the main supply corridors through a de facto blockade of Armenia by most neighbouring states. A devastating earthquake in 1988 killed 25,000 people and left more than half a million homeless, many of whom still do not have adequate shelter. Due to the conflict over Ngorno-Karabakh, landlocked Armenia is host to 300,000 refugees, and a further 77,000 people are reported to be displaced from towns and villages bordering Azerbaijan in the east. In addition, there are more than one million economically vulnerable people, living mostly in urban areas.

The continuing blockade has resulted in critical shortages of essential supplies and services, including food and fuel. The energy crisis is affecting all sectors. National output has fallen by more than 70 per cent since 1988. Armenia has always depended on imported medicines and now relies largely on donated pharmaceutical goods, vaccines and medical supplies. Mortality rates have risen and poor sanitary conditions have contributed to an increased risk of water-borne epidemics. The severe shortages have also affected schools, to the extent that the traditional practice of serving school meals has stopped.

Throughout 1993, UNHCR maintained the most active and visible presence in Armenia. Assistance was targeted to some 140,000 refugees. A total of 105,000 family food parcels were delivered, along with blankets, plastic sheeting and kerosene. WFP began operations in October 1993 as part of its regional strategy to assist 950,000 people in the Caucasus. WFP food deliveries to Armenia began in February 1994. UNICEF, WHO and IOM have all taken part in the UN response to Armenia's increasingly desperate situation. Many NGOs have also been active in Armenia since the December 1988 earthquake, and most expanded operations in 1993 in response to the conflict and increasing displacement of people.

Assessment mission to the region have drawn a clear picture of those in need. In the year ahead, the UN will concentrate on helping 550,000 people in Armenia, including 200,000 school children. UNHCR will continue to provide assistance for refugees and displaced persons and will place special emphasis in 1994/95 on providing target groups with the means to become self-sufficient. The cereal shortfall for 1994/95 is estimated at 290,000 MT in the next twelve months. WFP has taken over coordination of food supplies, but will continue operating in close collaboration with UNHCR.

UNICEF and WHO will provide drugs, medical supplies, cold-chain equipment and training to health workers in the coming months. Support will also be extended to strengthen the Ministry of Health's informa-

Assessment missions to the region have drawn a clear picture of those in need. The UN will concentrate on helping 550,000 people in Armenia, 447,000 in Azerbaijan and 398,000 in Georgia.

tion and communicable disease control systems. UNHCR will continue assisting 180,000 refugees and internally displaced persons by supplying essential non-food items such as clothing, blankets, soap, kerosene and detergents. Urban buildings will be targeted for repair, and small housing projects should provide shelter for refugees in rural areas. UNESCO will assist in emergency repairs of selected school buildings, particularly orphanages and institutions for physically and mentally handicapped children. NGOs and UNHCR are considering income-generation schemes, especially quick-impact projects (QIPs). Seeds and tools will be provided for displaced persons so that they can return to agriculture or establish vegetable gardens. Small handicraft projects are also planned by UNHCR, in particular for refugee women, as a first step towards self-sufficiency.

Azerbaijan: difficulties to overcome

Rich in resources, Azerbaijan is experiencing extreme difficulty mobilising those resources. Azerbaijan's economy is deteriorating under the pressure of prolonged conflict, political instability and structural adjustment. The war over Ngorno-Karabakh has led to large-scale population movements, particularly in 1993, when five waves of displacement swept the country. A quarter of a million people, mostly from Armenia, have sought refuge in Azerbaijan, and a further 658,000 people are estimated to be internally displaced. About 200 schools around the country are occupied by displaced people, forcing nearly 60,000 children out of their classrooms. Paper and other school materials are in any case in short supply.

In 1994, UNHCR will continue to distribute essential non-food items to the most vulnerable refugees and internally displaced. An assisted self-help programme of locally-built family shelters is being initiated on a pilot basis in order to assess the possibility of their providing a low-cost alternative of tents. UNESCO is appealing for funds for paper so that the Government can print school textbooks, many aimed at disabled children. UNICEF will supply basic school materials, such as note books and pencils, while tents and furniture are being provided by UNHCR so that temporary schools can be established.

The conflict has also caused substantial damage to the infrastructure and a drop in agricultural production. While the country has a broad and extensive agricultural sector and can produce enough fuel to mobilise its own grain, production has dropped by about one-third since 1990 and the Government does not have enough money to pay for other essential imports, including food. Although bread is not rationed and is still widely available, the prices of other foodstuffs have risen sharply and have outstripped the purchasing power of poorer Azeris. WFP will provide supplemental food assistance for internally displaced people and the most needy refugees, as well as other priority groups such as disabled and handicapped people. Food distribution will be closely targeted and coordinated with NGOs.

Most of the internally displaced people are from rural backgrounds but are not able to farm because they lack the tools. UNHCR is currently distributing seeds and locally bought tools to allow 5,000 families to begin vegetable gardening. This will supplement their income as well as their diets. UNHCR will also hand out tool kits to carpenters, masons and electricians so that they can become productive again.

UNICEF will focus in 1994 on distributing food supplements to lactating mothers

In many refugee camps, defective water and sanitation systems are a serious health threat. **Photo: A. Hollmann/ UNHCR**

UNHCR has been present in Armenia and Azerbaijan since 1989, and has developed close relationships with many locals.
Photo: A. Hollmann/ UNHCR

and young children, and will launch a nutrition and growth monitoring programme. Together with WHO, UNICEF will also expand current immunisation programmes and provide vaccines and related equipment, and training.

Georgia: plagued by internal problems

At the time of independence, Georgians had one of the highest standards of living in the former Soviet Union. Today, the country has been racked by political instability, civil strife on two fronts and the displacement of 270,000 people. Lack of foreign exchange for essential inputs, such as fuel, and hyper-inflation have devastated the economy. Agricultural production was reduced in 1993 for the third year in succession. Without a marked improvements in fuel supply and other factors, further reductions in 1994 are likely. In Abkhazia, there has been widespread destruction. Up to 75 per cent of the inhabitants may have left their homes. Following the signing of a quadripartite agreement between the Georgian Government, representatives of Abkhazia, the Russian Federation and UNHCR, conditions are now such that UNHCR expects displaced persons in Georgia to begin return to their homes in Abkhazia shortly. Assistance for return and reintegration of this group by UNHCR, WFP and UNDP is proposed.

After several years of huge budget deficits, the Government lacks the resources to ensure basic services. Health care is now entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance and many primary health care units and hospitals are unable to function due to lack of medical supplies and equipment.

Georgia has enormous agricultural potential and varied production. However, agricultural production has fallen sharply. In 1993, output was just half of the 1990 level. The fuel shortage has restricted attempts to distribute locally-produced food and imported grain.

Caucasus logistics unit established

In late 1993, WFP established the Caucasus Logistics Advisory Unit (CLAU) to coordinate logistics operations across the Caucasus region. CLAU's objectives are to monitor and plan food aid deliveries at the regional and national levels, to disseminate information and resolve problems in the local transportation system.

CLAU has already encountered severe power problems in Georgia, a lack of diesel-powered locomotives and periodic sabotage of the rail link with Armenia, all of which have made distribution to remote areas extremely difficult.

CLAU was created with the primary concern of food shipments. However, its assistance is also necessary in delivering other large-scale commodities, such as fuel. CLAU will take bilateral and UN Agency/NGO deliveries into account as it oversees the food aid situation.

DHA is strenghtening its coordination role by setting up field coordination units in each of the three Caucasus countries and by strengthening at headquarters its coordination and reporting capabilities for the NIS. ■

Secretary-General pays tribute to Chernobyl workers as rehabilitation continues

After Chernobyl
Igor Costin, USSR
Photo WHO

In April, on the eighth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which inflicted extensive and lasting damage on the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the Secretary-General Mr. Boutros-Ghali paid tribute to a number of individuals from different parts of the world in recognition of their efforts to help alleviate the effects of the Chernobyl accident and bring the plight of its victims to the attention of the international community. Despite these noble efforts and those of so many others, much still remains to be done.

General Assembly resolution (48/206), adopted in December 1993, specifically mandated the United Nations' role as a catalyst in the regular exchange of information, cooperation, coordination and complementarity in the multilateral and bilateral efforts of relevant regional organisations and Member States in addressing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

Members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl, despite a severe shortage of funds, continue to assign high priority to Chernobyl in their activities.

- Most notably, WHO has expanded its International Programme on the Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident (IPHECA) to include the "liquidators" - some 600 to 800 thousand people who took part in the immediate clean-up efforts after the accident;
- UNESCO is completing work on creating socio-psychological rehabilitation centre in the affected areas and housing projects for those displaced by radioactive contamination;
- UNIDO has completed an industrial survey of the affected areas in Belarus and has proposed eight projects top address the most outstanding problems;
- the FAO/IAEA Joint Division is developing new and innovative projects aimed at restoring contaminated territories to safe agricultural use, etc.

USG calls for funds

As part of an overall funding strategy aimed at identifying additional sources of financing for Chernobyl-related projects of the UN system, Under-Secretary-General Mr. Peter Hanson, as the new United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation for Chernobyl, has approached numerous heads of private enterprises around the world asking for their support in alleviating the problems posed by the consequences of this accident.

The issue of Chernobyl is further complicated by the poor safety conditions which still plague the nuclear power plant itself. This was confirmed by an IAEA-lead assessment mission to the plant in March 1994. IAEA is working closely with the Government of Ukraine and Member States to address this problem.

The next meeting of the Quadripartite Committee for Coordination on Chernobyl is to be held in the Fall of 1994, where the results of the efforts undertaken since the last meeting in November 1993, in particular, to stimulate funding from the private sector, will be evaluated, and future activities mapped out. ■

Rwanda: a tragic story of slaughtered hope

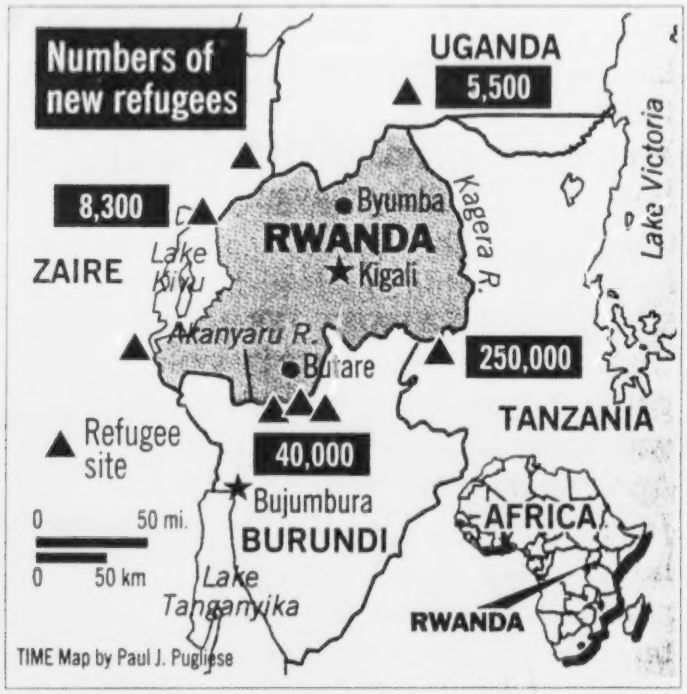
Rwanda, a fertile but crowded country in Africa's Great Lakes region, has returned to the battlefield. On 6 April, the presidential jet carrying President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda and the President of Burundi, was downed as it approached Kigali airport. This event sparked violence which spread rapidly, drawing in the Presidential Guard, the army and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) and led to the recommencement of the country's long-simmering civil strife. The killing continues, but 200,000 or more could be dead. More than two million people have fled their homes, placing a massive strain on relief structures in the region.

The renewed war has featured artillery duels in the capital, Kigali, and widely reported massacres. The 2600 UN troops in Rwanda were overwhelmed by the scale of the violence and their numbers were reduced following a Security Council resolution to that effect. Most UN agencies and NGOs pulled their international staff out of Rwanda when the fighting began, leaving behind local aid workers who were often targeted for violence. More than fifty Rwandese working for the UN and NGOs are known to have been killed in the violence, the main victims being the Tutsi minority and alleged Hutu sympathiser with the Tutsi-dominated rebel RPF.

Return to the Killing Fields

The situation in Kigali, it has been said, is growing to resemble Mogadishu -- a city divided between the two main factions, with pockets held by independent gangs. Just a few weeks ago, Kigali was home to 200,000 people. Now, it is estimated that more than

Fleeing ethnic violence, an estimated 250,000 Rwandese swept into Tanzania in the largest and fastest refugee exodus ever witnessed.
Photo: P. Moumtzis/ UNHCR



Map from TIME magazine.

half have fled or been killed. Thousands of those left behind have taken shelter in a football stadium, which has been shelled repeatedly. Access to water is very difficult in Kigali, and corpses contaminate the little water that can be found.

Most aid programmes in Rwanda have been suspended since the fighting began. UNICEF has managed to deliver some medical supplies to Kigali, but the battle for control of the capital has made movement around the city almost impossible. The airport was hit by mortar fire on 28 April as planes carrying relief items landed. Although WFP has a substantial stockpile of food aid in Kigali, the street fighting has prevented everything but limited distribution.

WFP has managed to distribute 500 MT of food aid to the refugees and displaced in the north of the country, and another 680 MT in the south. Throughout Rwanda, cholera, dysentery, louse-borne typhus and even the plague could threaten the lives of millions. Cholera was already endemic before the war erupted, and decomposing bodies floating in water sources represent a grave risk to the health of the living.

Hundreds of thousands of refugees have crossed the borders into Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire. In Tanzania, the world's largest refugee camp sprang into existence when 250,000 people crossed the border in a single day. If the refugees remain where they are and flows continue, water, sanitation and food supply problems may become overwhelming. UNHCR is shipping in blankets, tarpaulins and cooking equipment, but the

The United Nations in the field

On 23 April, even as the evacuation of non-military staff was being completed, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Peter Hansen, led an inter-agency Advance Humanitarian Team (AHT) into Kigali. Since then, the AHT has maintained an inter-agency presence in Kigali that has engaged in the distribution of relief materials to those displaced populations within Kigali under UNAMIR protection.

In Nairobi, a special unit has been established to coordinate the UN system's response to the Rwanda crisis. Under the authority of DHA and with the assistance of UNDP, the United Nations Rwanda Emergency Office (UNREO) was established on 14 April. It is a light structure supporting the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in coordinating relief and recovery efforts of UN agencies, in close collaboration with international relief partners. Based in Nairobi but also present in the field, UNREO will be involved in:

- Preparing and elaborating discussion and policy papers on specific humanitarian issues;
- overall information collection, analysis and dissemination;
- facilitating UN agency surveys and the elaboration of consolidated appeals;
- supporting UN agency operations; and
- assuming the role of secretariat for the Disaster Management Team, NGOs and donor meetings.

UN agencies have seconded staff to UNREO and agency representatvices from Kigali continue to meet daily in Nairobi under the Chairmanship of the Humanitarian Coordinator. An operations room will be set up in Nairobi to monitor all relief activities and maintain an oveall understanding of the evolving emergency situation in Rwanda, and to manage the humanitarian component of the air-bridge between Nairobi and Kigali. UNREO staff will also issue situation reports and updates. Some of the staff withdrawn from Rwanda have remained in Nairobi, and are already planning recovery and rehabilitation projects.

scale of the needs is putting severe pressure on the capacity of relief agencies.

Responding to the emergency, DHA on 25 April issued a "Flash Appeal" for US $11.86 million, which includes the requirements of DHA, UNDP, IOM, UNICEF, UNV, WFP and WHO. The appeal covers the period up to 31 May 1994, shortly after which a consolidated appeal will be launched.

While the fighting continues, efforts to aid Rwandese will be hamstrung. Machetes and machine guns have been widely used in massacres, the brutality of which have surprised everyone. Comparisons with Cambodia's "killing fields" of the 1970s have been made. While aid is needed, however, DHA will do all it can to provide that aid. ■

The scale of the refugee flow strained relief structures to the limit. **Photo: P. Moumtzis/ UNHCR**

MAN-MADE TRAGEDY

Former Yugoslavia: one more chance for peace?

The formidable international relief operation mounted in response to the terrible humanitarian crisis in former Yugoslavia stands at a crossroads. If agreement is reached that puts an end to the conflict, the international community will be able to turn towards reconstruction and to help the peoples of former Yugoslavia begin to rebuild their lives. If, however, conflict reintensifies, the prospects are grim.

The international community has responded generously throughout this crisis. While humanitarian assistance has not made the horrors of war more bearable, it has alleviated the suffering of millions and saved many lives through two winters of war. Yet, such assistance cannot substitute for peace. Nothing is more costly than war. The victims need peace.

Foreword, UN Revised Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the former Yugoslavia, July - December 1994

Recent signs in the former Yugoslavia give force to hopes that the conflict may be coming to an end. Even if this transition occurs and emergency action begins to give way to rehabilitation and reconstruction operations, the peoples of the former Yugoslavia will require aid for months and perhaps years to come.

While efforts must clearly be turned to achieving a lasting political solution and transforming that solution into peace, the immediate physical needs of the millions in need in the republics should not be ignored.

While efforts must be turned to achieving a lasting political solution, the immediate basic needs of millions of victims in need should not be ignored.

The current UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the former Yugoslavia targets 4,121,500 people for assistance during the second half of 1994. A total of US $532,070,211 is required to pay for the programmes outlined in the appeal. Those programmes will provide a lifeline to the targeted beneficiaries while preparing to make the transition to the next phase which will be characterised by full scale rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

The appeal focuses on continuing emergency relief assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) in Croatia, and emergency transition assistance in the rest of Croatia, Slovenia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Populations at risk

It is imperative to continue efforts to protect minority groups wherever they are and to prevent violations of human rights. No large-scale repatriation is envisaged in the immediate future, but as people begin to return to their home regions, the potential for a renewed outbreak of ethnic tensions and the conditions of returnees should be monitored closely.

There is also a continuing need for assistance in the health and nutrition sector, including establishing guidelines and a strategy until local institutions and staff can take over.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a broad spectrum of assistance activities will be required to reduce the suffering of the vulnerable. Out of a pre-war population of 4.3 million, 2,775,000 are targeted for assistance by the appeal. Because of population shifts, a shortage of inputs such as fertiliser, seeds and fuel, and the inability of farmers to safely tread their fields, the appeal projects that nearly 300,000 MT will need to be imported to make up the shortfall in local production. As in other sectors, the appeal is designed to improve long-term prospects for self-sufficiency. UNHCR and WFP will continue distributing seeds and supporting local food processing and distribution.

The lifting of Sarajevo's siege has brightened chances of bringing the war to an end, and allowed agencies and the population to begin restoring the city's basic services. Funds have already been pledged to assist in repairs of Sarajevo's electricity, waste collection, water supply, communications, transport and health facilities. While this is a good beginning, efforts should not end with Sarajevo alone.

Croatia's economic and social infrastructure has suffered through three years of conflict. The cost of living has been rising faster than wages, unemployment is increasing and agricultural production has dropped,

though not to the point which would require large-scale imports. Schools are overcrowded and short of supplies, while health care facilities face similar difficulties. In addition to 637,000 refugees and displaced persons, 375,000 Croatians on social welfare are targeted in the appeal.

In Slovenia, the targeted beneficiaries are 31,000 registered refugees, along with 2,700 unregistered refugees being assisted by the Slovenian Red Cross and 1,700 migrant workers from Bosnia and Herzegovina who have lost, or will shortly lose, their social benefits.

Economies in crisis

The economic situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is particularly serious. The currency collapsed in 1993 and inflation reached two per cent an hour in December. Since reforms were introduced in January, hyperinflation has disappeared and food has become more available. However, prices are still high, and the income of most residents is extremely low. The Yugoslav Red Cross has estimated that 90 per cent of the 10.3 million residents is unable to meet basic needs. UNHCR recently did a survey which revealed that only six per cent of families hosting refugees had sufficient resources to cover their food needs. To overcome the gap between means and needs, 150,000 of the most needy Yugoslavs have been targeted in the appeal, including more than 50,000 orphans, elderly, mentally and physically handicapped. This should help overcome the friction between residents and refugees.

The number of social cases in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been rising as the economy has shrunk. The government thinks almost nine per cent of the country's population is living below the poverty line. The situation could worsen severely as Greece's blockade, begun in February, is felt. Cereal production is expected to rise in 1994, but not enough to cover all the needs.

Throughout the former Yugoslavia, there is much that needs to be done. This new appeal by the United Nations is a programme of activities which will tackle the most crucial problems while preparing the ground for the lasting peace which must come before international assistance can end. ■

Above left:
Some elderly refugees arrive on their own. The camp has a special section for this particularly vulnerable group.

Above right:
Schools, gymnasiums and hostels have been turned into collective centres to accomodate the displaced.
Photos:
A. Hollmann/UNHCR

Japan: preparing for the worst gives best results

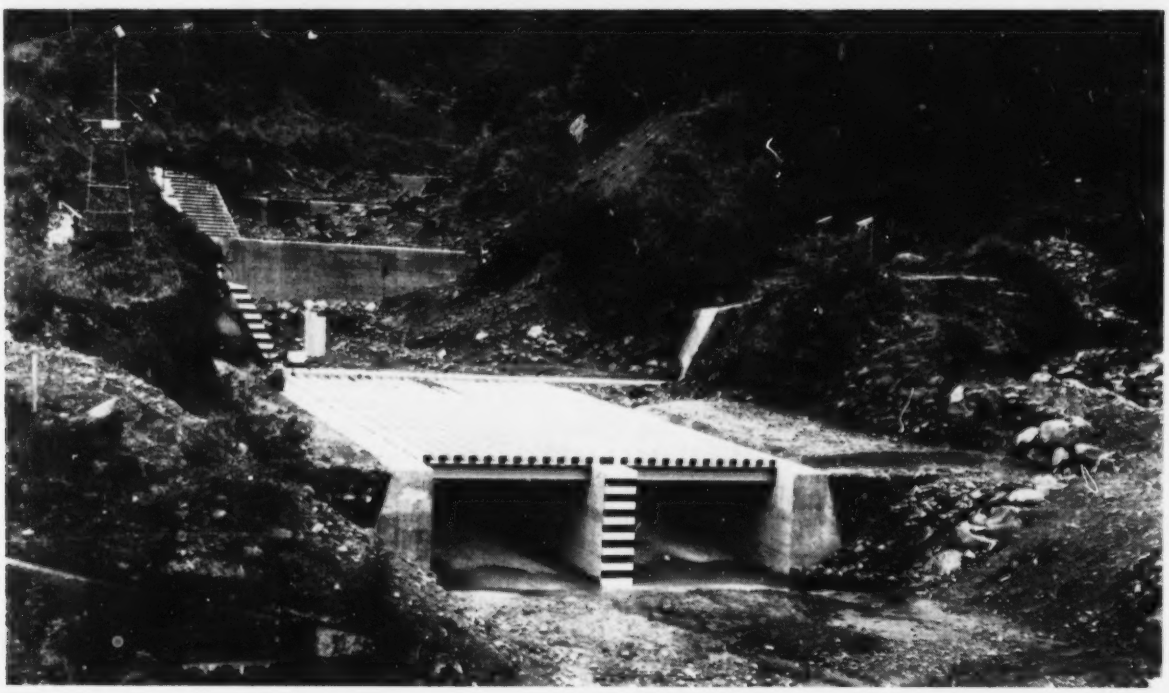
Japan is a natural host for the 1994 World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, in Yokohama 23-27 May. Japan has had a wealth of experience with natural tragedies, being particularly vulnerable to cyclones and earthquakes, and has developed a disaster management and mitigation strategy that could plausibly claim to be the most detailed and comprehensive national plan in existence.

Japan is no stranger to natural disasters. Twenty-seven volcanoes are active in Japan, which is situated in one of the most seismically active regions of the world. In 1993 alone, Japan was struck by three earthquakes measuring more than 7.0 on the Richter scale. Earthquakes occurring under the Pacific Ocean can have an added impact, when the tsunamis they create reach the coast.

Seven times since 1945, storms and floods have claimed more than a thousand lives. In the same period, six earthquakes have killed more than a hundred people. Since 1986, three volcanoes have erupted with fatal consequences. The worst, Mt. Unzendake, took 44 lives. The damage caused by the various catastrophes is incalculable, but Japanese authorities estimate that more than US $50 billion have been lost in the last ten years.

When the General Assembly announced the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), the Japanese Government designated the National Land Agency (NLA) as the coordinating body for IDNDR activities. However, rather than attempt to incorporate all relevant functions into one organisation, the NLA enlists the help of 21 other Government departments.

The Ministry of Transport, for instance, is responsible for vehicles, ships and aircraft, while the Ministry of Construction regulates



Debris Flow Breakers have been designed ...

... to prevent rocks sliding down hillsides in high risk areas.

the use of land and takes responsibility for flood control and emergency works. The Ministry of Education has several important tasks, in implementing disaster prevention training and education, and preparing school facilities for disasters.

National coordination

Overall disaster prevention is coordinated by the Central Disaster Prevention Council, which deliberates on important matters concerning disaster prevention, including formulating and promoting the execution of the Basic Plan for Disaster Prevention. The Basic Plan provides a comprehensive long-term plan for disaster prevention and outlines matters considered important or necessary for the formulation of local disaster prevention plans.

Designated administrative organs (Ministries and Agencies) then have the job of preparing and executing the Operational Plan for Disaster Prevention, along with the Designated Public Corporations which operate in essential fields such as telecommunications, electricity and gas supply.

The Japanese system for assessing natural hazards and planning to combat them is remarkably efficient. Each local government has been conducting, or has completed, hazard assessments based on hazard types, possible causes, the past history of disaster events and changes in land use over time. Using this information, local authorities have been preparing prevention charts.

Based on these charts, the national government has been able to draw up a detailed hazard map of the entire country. Special attention has been paid to coastal regions to allow the authorities to carry out relief and rescue missions.

A warning system has also been established in the danger zones around Japan's 27 active volcanoes, to allow the timely evacuation of local inhabitants. Areas subject to landslides or hillside collapse have also been assessed comprehensively. Roads and bridges have also been strengthened to ensure vital routes remain open. Past disruptions due to natural hazards have been studied and plans drawn up to minimise future breaks in the disaster response chain.

Natural hazards are monitored by a vast array of sophisticated forecast and prediction mechanisms. Japan's Computer Systems for Meteorological Services is able to predict atmospheric conditions around the world up to eight days in advance, which makes it extremely valuable as an early warning system for potentially threatening storms.

The Earthquake Potential Observation System immediately determines the seismic

Schools Provide a Focus for Earthquake Disaster Prevention in Shizuoka Prefecture

Schools have provided a focus for earthquake disaster mitigation strategies in Shizuoka prefecture since 1976, when a report first forecasted a high probability of a large-scale earthquake in the Tokai area of Japan's Pacific coast. In the wake of the report, an earthquake disaster mitigation strategy was swiftly drawn up and implemented.

One of the first activities undertaken was the production and distribution of a booklet, "Guideline of Instruction for Earthquake Disaster Prevention in School". Reinforcing and rebuilding school buildings, as well as an education programme for disaster management, were important elements in the preparedness strategy. All students are now taught about earthquakes, how they occur and how the damage they cause can be lessened. Some older students participate in earthquake monitoring and prediction experiments, collecting data from instruments and exchanging experiences once a year. Safety checks and disaster drills are held regularly.

In the event of an earthquake disaster, 262 schools will become evacuation centres. Evacuees will pitch tents in the school grounds and camp there until the emergency has passed. Sections of the schools have been reinforced and will be used to house and treat victims of the earthquake.

Despite the impressive level of preparedness in schools, school administrators and disaster planners continue to upgrade the facilities. Plans are in place to further improve the readiness of schools and pupils to face the earthquake everyone hopes will never come.
Source: STOP Disasters, July-August 1993

Many disasters destroy telephone lines, so other communication links have been established for disaster managers. As well as an extensive radio network, Japanese disaster managers can make use of two backup systems.

centre, magnitude and destructive potential of earthquakes. This information is transmitted to the Earthquake Tsunami Observation System which issues tsunami alerts. Other systems in place include an Avalanche Monitoring System, which keeps an eye on weather conditions that could affect the likelihood of avalanches occurring.

In the event of a disaster, the affected municipality takes action, overseen by the prefectural government and coordinated, if required, by the national authorities. Each region has its own Local Plan for Disaster Prevention, which specifies the roles of organs related to disaster prevention, emergency measures against disasters and disaster restoration. Detailed blueprints for storing, acquiring, transporting and distributing relief items are a part of the Local Plans, which are updated annually.

Disaster communications

Communication in disaster situations is a key concern of the Japanese disaster management system. Many of the disasters which strike Japan destroy telephone lines. In cases where the telephone system is not knocked out, it becomes overloaded by people frantically trying to get in touch with relatives and friends in the disaster area. For disaster managers, this system is unusable, so other communication links have been established.

The government organisations, administrative organs and public corporations involved in disaster countermeasures are all linked by a radio wave transmission network, which allows them to communicate by telephone and facsimile without going through public communication channels. In addition, there is a backup system of portable radios which allows direct communication with the central office or through the coordinating centre to other mobile stations. Further backup is provided by an orbiting satellite which connects fixed and mobile ground stations, and is capable of transmitting video images as well as telephone and facsimile communications.

Automobiles equipped with video cameras and transmitters are also available to be dispatched to damaged areas, to allow headquarters staff to see the damage for themselves and make assessments and decisions based on those images.

As well as assessing national hazards and preparing plans to mitigate them, Japan assists other countries in the region through weather forecasts, tsunami warnings, and by observing volcanoes and providing technical guidance on a range of matters including coastline protection, erosion control, seismic design technology for roads and bridges, and by sending relief teams and goods in the aftermath of natural disasters. ■

Ethiopia: new directions in disaster management

Ethiopia has for a long time been a country in need of massive international assistance for relief of disasters, most notably drought-induced famines. National disaster management structures have been in existence for 20 years, but recently they have been changing their strategies to allow for a greater responsiveness and coordination between relief and development priorities.

Drought is not the only natural disaster which befalls Ethiopia, although it is the most prevalent. The river basins suffer from floods, earthquakes strike the Rift Valley Zone and locusts infest the north and east.

Ethiopia's "National Policy on Disaster Prevention and Management", completed in October 1993, represents a major shift from responding to crises towards a strategy for ensuring that relief efforts contribute towards disaster prevention and sustainable growth and development. The most important basic principle of the Policy is that "the community shall play the leading role in the planning, programming, implementation and evaluation of all relief projects."

Overall responsibility for policy, guidelines and monitoring relief activities rests with the National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Committee (NDPPC). The NDPPC oversees the operations of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), which has the task of coordinating and mobilising relief, while the implementation of projects is left to regional and local authorities.

The RRC was established after the disastrous Wollo famine of 1972-74. Its mandate was to act as the primary authority for the coordination and implementation of country-wide relief activities. It developed into a highly centralised agency which, by 1986, had 12,000 employees and a fleet of more than 1,000 vehicles.

During the 1984-85 famine donors neglected the RRC in favour of international NGO's, for political reasons. They were also uncomfortable with its regulation on relief activities, especially in the north, which was then in the grip of conflict.

Since that time, however, the RRC has been restructured and its priorities have changed. Rather than focusing on short-term relief efforts, a major attempt is now being made to reduce the vulnerability of the population to famine and their dependency

Disaster management in Ethiopia relies heavily on full participation of the local community.
Photo: DHA

on outside aid. In addition, a comprehensive attempt has been made to map the location and activities of all NGOs operating in Ethiopia so that gaps can be identified and filled, either by NGOs or the RRC.

Among the functions being delegated to local officials is that of early warning. Recommendations have also been made that the Food Security Reserve be put into the hands of local authorities. Most significantly, NGO involvement in relief activities has been made subservient to the beneficiaries, who will take responsibility for the implementation of aid programmes.

No gratuitous relief is given to those able to work. This prevents relief dependence, a growing problem among receivers of relief.
Photos: Devold/DHA

Some aid agencies operating in Ethiopia have expressed concern at this new approach, but giving "ownership" of projects to the local community ensures that local resources are mobilised most effectively and also improves the security situation. Communities which take responsibility for their own programmes are less likely to "tax" aid convoys.

No free rides

One of the most dramatic changes in the approach of Ethiopian authorities involves the way aid is distributed. Previously, aid was handed out mainly to refugees and without any concern for the long-term impact of the programme on the region in which it was based.

Now, a much more integrated approach is being taken, with one eye on the future at the same time as relief is provided. In non-disaster years, regional authorities undertake labour-intensive public works programmes using their regular budget. In times of disaster, able-bodied men and women are expected to participate in these schemes in order to receive relief, rather than passively accept supplies.

Under the Ethiopian disaster mitigation plan, relief items shall only be freely distributed to the aged, the infirm, the disabled, pregnant women, young children and incapacitated adults who have no close relatives able and duty-bound to support them. This will keep development projects on track while reducing the likelihood of relief dependency, a serious concern for the Ethiopian government. At the same time, those who are unable to work will still be able to receive much-needed relief supplies.

Long-term preventive measures are extremely important in highly vulnerable areas, where a slight disaster can throw the entire economy out of gear because of a lack of resistance capacity to any kind of disaster. In order to build that capacity, the Government has made development projects a high priority.

One area with special significance to Ethiopia is land use and risk management. Since so much of Ethiopia's land is extremely marginal, a slight increase in land conservation can have enormous impact on the long-term sustainability of the land.

This new Ethiopian strategy for disaster preparedness and mitigation will reduce the need for external assistance by making best use of Ethiopia's most abundant natural resource, its people. However, outside aid will still be needed to implement the full range of development and vulnerability-reduction programmes. It is hoped that, with time, Ethiopians will be able to stand up to the challenges of natural disasters with a minimum of external assistance.

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The South Pacific: especially vulnerable to disasters

Countries in the Pacific Ocean are famed for the sun, sea and surf which feature in so many tourist brochures. What is not immediately obvious from a picture postcard is that these low-lying islands and their broad white palm-fringed beaches are threatened by natural events which can kill, wipe out years of economic progress and threaten fragile island environments.

Countries in the Pacific face a range of threats. Cyclones are the most common disasters and have the most devastating impact. Cyclonic winds not only destroy houses and other buildings, they break trees and strip them of their leaves. The flying debris is another hazard, one which can prove fatal to humans and animals alike. In a cyclone, the sea level often rises and can sweep over entire islands, washing away structures, crops, animals and people. Even when the waters are gone, the salt left behind can retard agriculture for months or years. When Cyclone Ola hit Tokelau, waves washed away the atoll's topsoil and salt contaminated the supply of drinking water and the soil. For months, no crops could grow.

Landslides often occur as a result of cyclones or earthquakes, and may cause major disasters in themselves. Landslides can block roads and make access to disaster-stricken areas much more difficult, or bury villages under a mass of earth.

Earthquakes and volcanoes, though not frequently the cause of large scale disasters, remain a constant threat to many people in the South Pacific. In February 1993, 300 people were evacuated from Simbo Island in the Solomons when the volcano erupted. In October, an earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale struck the Finisterre Ranges in Papua New Guinea, causing landslides which killed 41 people and forcing the evacuation of more than 7,000.

Common problems, different solutions

Most countries in the region have some institutional mechanism to cope with natural disasters. In general, organisations are oriented towards response and disaster relief, with a limited role in preparedness.

In some countries, such as the Cook Islands and Vanuatu, disaster organisations are linked to police forces. However, these organisations have a narrow range of responsibilities, mainly in the response phase of a disaster, and do not deal with issues of development and preparedness before, or reconstruction after, disaster strikes.

Disaster mitigation activities are given a low priority, and this leads to poor linkages between development planners and disaster mitigators. Some countries, such as the Cook Islands, are currently working to expand the role of their disaster organisations to better address these issues.

In other countries, a government agency or team is responsible for a broad range of

Banana crops are particularly vulnerable to cyclones.
Photo : MD/WFP

disaster mitigation activities, including pre-disaster planning and preparedness, emergency response, relief and rehabilitation. While this approach allows a wide spectrum of activities to be included in disaster reduction, the support of other government departments is often lacking.

However they treat disaster reduction work, Pacific Island Nations face common problems. Disaster preparedness in many countries is rudimentary. Too often, information on people, land use and crucial facilities is not available. The technical skills and equipment required to perform hazard and vulnerability assessments are spread very thinly across the region. Tasks not yet attempted include assessment and mapping of flood hazards, earthquake microzoning for large cities and landslide hazard assessment.

Most Pacific economies depend on a narrow range of products. Because economies are small, the costs of natural disasters are proportionally high in the Pacific.

Because Pacific economies depend on a narrow range of products from agricultural lands, the ocean and the forests, any disaster can have an extraordinarily severe impact on the economic prospects of the affected islands. Because economies are small, the costs of natural disasters are proportionally far higher in the Pacific than in more developed regions.

Disaster mitigation activities in the Pacific must take account of the region's special features. Land masses are small and scattered across the world's largest ocean. While development is changing the demographic profile of countries in the Pacific, most people still live on remote islands, where televisions, telephones and radios are scarce. These factors make it very difficult to design and implement disaster warning systems which cover the entire population.

Another critical limit on disaster reduction work in the South Pacific is the lack of financial resources. Many countries cannot afford the investment needed for disaster-proof bridges, hospitals and schools, and so planners prefer to focus on development activities such as education and health care.

After Cyclone Axel caused widespread damage in the Federated States of Micronesia in 1992, the Government decided to build two cyclone-proof bridges in important locations. The cost of the new Lehnmesi Bridge was US $350,000, more than four times the cost of the bridge which had been washed away by the cyclone.

Disaster reduction is slowly becoming acknowledged as an important method to promote development. One leading example of integrated disaster mitigation and development is the regional development project in Fiji, which includes flood control measures as well as agriculture and infrastructure development.

Islands are more vulnerable than other areas to changes in sea level. Most people in the Pacific live only metres above the ocean, so any rise in its level will have drastic consequences. Agricultural land is of poor quality on most islands, and fresh water can be scarce. Some disaster managers fear that a change in the world's climate could seriously increase the number and severity of natural disasters in the region.

Community involvement and regional cooperation

To reduce the impact of disasters, South Pacific countries will have to closely involve local communities. Most Pacific countries have strong community organisations which can be utilised fully for disaster mitigation activities. Disaster awareness programmes can be organised and conducted at the community level, along with national information and assistance campaigns. Long-term efforts to reduce community vulnerability should not be ignored.

Regional cooperation will be a necessity to conserve resources. Many problems experienced by South Pacific countries are regional problems, and an exchange of knowledge and experiences is vital to achieve best results from disaster reduction activities.

Several regional organisations already play valuable roles in this field, supplying training, assistance and information in economic and social fields to governments and administrations, producing technical information on geological hazards, including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and coastal erosion. The South Pacific Forum, a regional policy-making body, is beginning to take a more active interest in disaster management.

The "South Pacific Disaster Reduction Programme" is a four year regional project which began in January 1994. Funded by UNDP with support from the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and other countries, the project is being implemented by DHA's South Pacific Programme Office. By strengthening the institutional capacities and training disaster managers, the project will enable South Pacific countries to better plan preparedness and post-disaster recovery. Systems to improve regional coordination will also be established. ■

Madagascar: a stormy season

Between 13 January and 23 March 1994, six cyclones whipped up the Indian Ocean in the proximity of Madagascar. Four (Daisy, Geralda, Litanne and Nadya) struck the island. The nature of the cyclones was twofold: tropical cyclonic disturbances generating powerful winds and torrential rains causing flooding and destruction.

Widespread extensive damage

The cyclones affected practically all of the six provinces of Madagascar, with greatest intensity in the province of Toamasina. Certain regions were struck two or three times from mid-January to mid-March. Of a population of 5.4 million people, close to 500,000 people, were affected.

Cyclones Daisy and Geralda alone resulted in 231 deaths, 73 missing and 267 injured. More than 300,000 hectares of crops (rice, maize, manioc, beans, coffee and sugarcane) were destroyed, and more than 13,000 heads of cattle were lost. In Antananarivo, the houses of 60,000 people were damaged or destroyed by floods. According to UNICEF, 250,000 people in the country were without drinking water, and another 150,000 had health problems.

The infrastructure (roads, ports, power lines, dikes, railways, schools, health clinics, public offices and communications) suffered extensive damage. The damage will have long-term impact since crops were destroyed, cropland was flooded for a long time, and the only oil refinery (Tamatave) was destroyed, requiring oil products to be imported for at least six months.

Several local NGOs organized emergency reception centres to assist the affected population. In Antananarivo alone, 212 such centres were established. The Government created two crisis centres and activated the permanent national body for emergencies, the National Emergency Council. The radio network broadcasted up-to-date information throughout the disaster period.

Donors respond

The UN Resident Coordinator -- together with bilateral donors (France, Germany, Japan, Switzerland and USAID), the European Union, agencies of the UN system (FAO, WHO, WFP, UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank) and NGOs such as Care International, Catholic Relief Services, Caritas, MSF and the Federation -- assisted the Government in organizing immediate relief action and an assessment of damage and needs.

The World Bank fielded a mission, which proposed concrete measures for reconstruction and rehabilitation, to clear the way for a resumption of the development process in the affected areas. WFP distributed food in the reception centres of Antananarivo, and WHO consulted the Government on medical needs. UNICEF released US $50,000 for the immediate procurement of medicines and local funds for monitoring child nutrition and the rehabilitation of schools. A multi-donor mission by FAO and WFP assisted the Government in determining agricultural damage and in devising ways to deal with the food situation. Donors point out that deforestation has aggravated the impact of the cyclones and that a lack of maintenance of infrastructure and buildings has contributed to the severity of the damage.

Following Government appeals and donor intervention, a considerable number of contributions were pledged and received. Contributions reported to DHA amounted to US $7.5 million, of which more than US $5 million was donated by France. DHA issued eight Situation Reports and made available an emergency cash grant of US $30,000.

Cyclones are a yearly occurrence, and this year's season has shown the need to improve early warning systems as well as the need to further develop training.

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Mozambique: nature batters human efforts

Mozambique, struggling to recover from the effects of civil war, suffered a further blow on 24 - 26 March when Cyclone Nadya struck the northern provinces and swept down the country before finally dispersing.

The heavy rain and accompanying winds of up to 150 km/h left at least 50 people dead and hundreds injured. The cyclone destroyed or damaged thousands of dwellings, ripping off roofs and smashing down walls. Perhaps most crucially, the cyclone also destroyed cashew trees and food crops (maize, cassava) just two weeks before they were due to be harvested. More than a million people lost their homes and/or their crops.

Cyclone Nadya did not spare relief warehouses from destruction.
Photo: S.Metzner-Strack/DHA

DHA issued an international appeal for assistance on 29 March and immediately provided an emergency cash grant of US $30,000. Initial airlifts from DHA stockpiles in other parts of Mozambique transported 58 MT to the worst-affected areas, and an airlift from DHA's Pisa warehouse on 20 April brought another 22 MT of relief supplies to Nampula Province. Contributions have been reported to DHA by several Governments and NGOs, to a value of approximately US $3 million.

DHA assessment mission

At the request of the Government of Mozambique and in line with a recommendation from UNDP Maputo, a DHA assessment team visited seven affected districts on 11-21 April to assess needs and damage and to advise on further action to help the victims. The assessment mission's report concluded that the most critical immediate needs of the affected population were shelter, health care, water supply and food. In the city of Nacala, 70 per cent of the mud and straw houses, the most common form of shelter, was destroyed, and the water supply system was badly damaged. The WFP warehouse also suffered in the cyclone and 600 MT of food in storage was destroyed.

In rural areas, some food crops were saved, but losses in several areas were high. WFP estimates that 121,000 people will require food aid for at least two months (longer-term needs will be known after a further assessment). The loss of cashew trees, at a rate of 95 per cent in some areas, is a more serious one. Cashew trees provide a widely-cultivated source of secondary income, requiring five years to become productive. Support will be provided for the population in finding alternative sources of income. Increased planting of cotton and vegetables has been proposed

The assessment team also recommended that the local transport capacity be strengthened to allow delivery of relief and transportation of construction materials. The UN Operation in Mozambique Office for

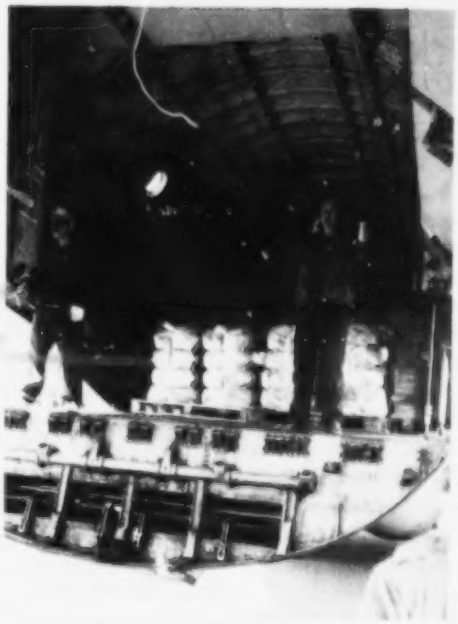
Humanitarian Assistance Coordination (UNOMOZ/UNOHAC) provided a helicopter for immediate post-disaster assessment and cargo planes for the distribution of relief items to areas in which the roads were unusable. UNOMOZ troops also assisted in clearing roads and repairing bridges in the aftermath of Cyclone Nadya.

Recently-rehabilitated facilities in Nacala Port were damaged by the cyclone, and two ships sank. Repair of the Port's water facilities will require considerable investment. Another sector which requires investment is education. An assessment by the Provincial Emergency Commission revealed that 122 schools were damaged or destroyed by Cyclone Nadya. Lessons have stopped, in some schools, while in others the students are taught under trees. Hospitals and health centres are also in need of attention. Electricity and running water are irregular, the loss of medicines and equipment was heavy, and 24 health centres suffered structural damage. Serious health problems remain in Nacala Port, where water shortages have led to an outbreak of diarrhoea.

A critical moment

"Cyclone Nadya hit at a critical moment for Mozambique," says DHA desk officer Satoru Nishikawa. "The government and people were starting to rebuild the country when this happened. We hope it will have no effect on the elections in October." Support facilities and infrastructure must be repaired in areas expecting to receive a further one million refugees and three million internally displaced, on top of the two million people who have already returned home.

The assessment mission has also recommended strengthening Mozambique's Provincial Emergency Commission. It suggested sending two experts to join the Commission to assist in the immediate delivery of relief, and in assessing and planning for rehabilitation and for improving preparedness for future disasters. ■



Above:
Local building materials often do not survive high cyclonic winds.
Photo : S. Metzner-Strack/DHA

Left:
DHA was quick to airlift relief from inside and outside Madagascar to the worst-hit areas.
Photo: A. Veronese DHA

La Géorgie

A l'aube du XXIème siècle, l'humanité s'éveille, riche en expériences diverses, à la fois douloureuses et glorieuses. Mais, hélas, il semble que l'homme ait oublié les leçons tirées du passé, comme en témoignent les combats quotidiens qui ont embrasé le Caucase il n'y a pas si longtemps encore. Située entre la mer Noire et la mer Caspienne, la Caucasie, véritable mosaïque ethnique et linguistique, est devenue un champ de bataille.

Depuis près de 3 ans la Géorgie s'est embourbée dans la guerre civile : les Géorgiens s'affrontant entre eux puis ensuite avec leurs Républiques autonomes d'Abkhazie et d'Ossétie du Sud, laissant un cortège de victimes et rendant inexistante une économie déjà précaire. Comment en est-on arrivé là?

Afin de nous permettre de mieux comprendre ce qui se passe aujourd'hui, nous avons essayé, dans ce document, preparé dans le courant de l'année 1993, de retracer chronologiquement le développement de la situation dans le pays jusqu'à Décembre 1993.

Faits saillants de la politique géorgienne depuis 1989

C'est en 1991 que la Géorgie proclama son indépendance. Le nouveau pouvoir, présidé par Zviad Gamsakhourdia, fut chassé en janvier 1992 suite à 2 semaines d'affrontements armés. C'est en octobre 1992 qu'Edouard Chevardnadze, ancien ministre des affaires étrangères de l'ancien président de l'ex-URSS, M. Gorbatchev, prenait le pouvoir, légitimé par de nouvelles élections. Mais le pays connaît des remous nationalistes. On a en mémoire la manifestation d'avril 1989 qui eut lieu à Tbilissi, la capitale, à propos de l'Abkhazie où la forte majorité géorgienne se sent menacée par les Abkhazes minoritaires qui contrôlent le pouvoir. C'est alors que les troupes spéciales du ministère de l'intérieur de l'URSS s'affrontèrent aux manifestants faisant 21 morts et plusieurs centaines de blessés accentuant le malaise qui s'installe dans le pays. Les minorités qui représentent 30% de la population se sentent menacées face au courant incontrôlable de xénophobie. La situation qui prévaut dans les Républiques voisines d'Arménie et d'Azerbaïdjan à propos du Haut-Karabakh n'est pas sans accélérer cette poussée nationaliste entraînant une rupture avec Moscou. C'est dans cette ambiance que la guerre civile a éclaté en Ossétie du Sud qui voit d'un assez bon oeil son rattachement à l'Ossétie du Nord située en Russie. Le flot de victimes et de réfugiés nous rappelle leur souffrance inutile. Le Gouvernement de Zviad Gamsakhourdia a sombré progressivement dans la dictature et fut mis en échec suite à de nouveaux affrontements. C'est dans ce contexte que M. Chevardnadze prendra la tête du gouvernement. Mais il sera difficile pour le nouveau président de mettre fin au désordre et à la guerre civile qui s'est enclenchée en Abkhazie. Si dans un premier temps les relations avec la Russie n'étaient pas des meilleures, elles se sont améliorées depuis la proposition du président Chevardnadze, le 8 octobre 1993, de faire entrer son pays dans la Communauté des Etats Indépendants* (CEI).

*La CEI : En octobre 1992, au sommet de Bichkek, (Kirghizstan), un accord fut signé sur le maintien de la zone rouble. Le Kazakhstan, l'Ouzbékistan, la Biélorussie, le Kirghizstan, et l'Arménie se rangent aux côtés de la Russie. L'Ukraine refuse cet accord. En janvier 1993, au sommet de Minsk, l'Ukraine, la Moldavie et le Turkménistan récusent le principe d'une charte de la CEI pouvant conduire à une confédération, l'Ukraine gardant le contrôle des armes stratégiques entreposées sur son territoire.

Entre l'été 1992 et celui de 1993, la guerre en **Abkhazie,** s'intensifie de jour en jour, augmentant le nombre des victimes : pour la seule ville portuaire de Soukhoumi on comptait plus de 300 morts et plus de 900 blessés. Les hôpitaux, sans équipement, pratiquement sans médicaments, arrivaient difficilement à calmer les souffrances des victimes. Au total, plus de 2 000 morts après un an de conflit.

L'**Ossétie** en lutte depuis 3 ans avec la Géorgie : bilan au moins 2 000 morts depuis 1990.

AFP/Infographie - Francis Nallier

Population : 5,4 millions, 55% urbaine, 45% rurale.
Superficie : 70 000 km²
Capitale : Tbilissi
Autres villes : Batoumi, Soukhoumi, Koutaisi, Poti.
Langues : Géorgien (officiel), Russe et Abkhasien.
Religion : Orthodoxe
3 Républiques autonomes :
Abkhazie, Adjarie, Ossétie du Sud.
Date de l'indépendance : 9 avril 1991
Date d'entrée à l'ONU : 6 juillet 1992

Le communisme s'est écroulé dans les pays de l'Est, et la chute du mur de Berlin en 1989 en restera le symbole. Il s'ensuivit un éclatement de l'ex-URSS et la naissance de 15 Républiques indépendantes, nouveaux états venus agrandir la famille des Nations Unies. Des minorités, hier encore inconnues, se révélèrent à la communauté mondiale. L'Abkhazie et l'Ossétie ont fait la une des médias, car au centre de rebellions sanglantes les opposant à la Géorgie. Le démantèlement de l'ex-URSS a fait rejaillir les querelles du passé et fait renaître chez bon nombre de minorités un sentiment indépendantiste n'aboutissant malheureusement qu'à des combats meurtriers et à des déplacements de population. Ces conflits armés se multiplient, entraînant dans leur sillage souffrance et pauvreté mais laissant le monde qui vit en paix dans la quasi indifférence. Une indifférence souvent due à l'incompréhension face à ces guerres civiles et à la méconnaissance de tous ces peuples, dont l'instabilité politique les discrédite aux yeux de ceux qui possèdent la vraie richesse, celle de vivre et de vivre en paix.

Aujourd'hui, le passage d'un moment de l'histoire internationale à un autre est symbolisé par l'afflux des nouveaux venus à l'Assemblée générale et dont font partie ces Républiques de l'ex-URSS. *"Ils témoignent de la rénovation de la notion d'Etat, entité signalant l'unité de chaque peuple et portant sa voix dans le concert des nations. La présence des Nations Unies se fait davantage sentir dans le monde entier, et les demandes auxquelles elle doit faire face sont sans précédent. Dans l'ancienne Union soviétique, la tâche principale de la communauté internationale consiste à faciliter et à appuyer une gestion à la fois saine et pacifique, par ces pays eux-mêmes, de la transformation qui s'y opère. L'octroi d'une aide humanitaire avec le concours actif du système des Nations Unies devra être suivi par les activités indispensables qu'imposent la reconstruction des zones déchirées par les conflits et la réinstallation des personnes déplacées."* (Extraits du rapport du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, M. Boutros Ghali, septembre 1992.)

Dans le cadre de cette action d'aide humanitaire entreprise par la communauté internationale, le Département des affaires humanitaires (DAH) déploie tous ses efforts pour mobiliser et coordonner cette aide humanitaire, à la demande des gouvernements, tels que l'Arménie, l'Azerbaïdjan, la Géorgie, le Kazakhstan, le Kirghiztan et le Tadjikistan.

Photo : P. Orloff/DAH

La situation économique dramatique des trois Républiques caucasiennes d'Arménie, d'Azerbaïdjan et de Géorgie, a été exacerbée par les conflits venus s'ajouter aux effets néfastes des catastrophes naturelles. On y compte presque un million de réfugiés ou déplacés; des milliers ont été tués et estropiés et plusieurs milliers ne se sont toujours pas remis des tremblements de terre en Arménie (1988) et en Géorgie (1991 et 1992). De plus, le taux de criminalité augmente et il est loin le temps où Bakou, la capitale azéri, était une ville cosmopolite de bord de mer, où arméniens, azéris et juifs vivaient paisiblement ensemble.

La Géorgie, livrée à la guerre civile, offrait à la communauté internationale l'image du désespoir des victimes, des atrocités des combats, celle d'un peuple mutilé fuyant les zones de conflit, abandonnant tout ce qu'il possède pour devenir un peuple de réfugiés. Et pourtant la Géorgie mérite d'être connue sous un autre angle. C'est en effet un fascinant pays riche en contrastes, où la chaîne du Caucase culmine avec l'Elbrouz (5633m) et qu'emprunte la célèbre route militaire de Géorgie jusqu'au col de la Croix (2384m). Ce fameux défilé de Darial fut la seule voie de liaison Nord-Sud à travers le Grand Caucase et ce n'est qu'au XIXe que les Russes en firent une route militaire. La diversité du climat fait cotoyer étendues désertiques, marécages, plaines fertiles et neiges éternelles. Selon la légende locale *"Lorsque Dieu créa le monde, il rassembla les plus beaux éléments : le ciel au bleu éclatant, l'air cristallin, les montagnes aux versants escarpés, les mers aux baies profondes, la végétation d'un vert inaltérable. Il fit de ces trésors un paquet qu'il serra contre son coeur pour l'emporter sur le chemin du retour. Mais il trébucha sur le Grand Caucase et les trésors tombèrent à terre. C'est là que naquit la Géorgie"*. Les premières sources écrites concernant la Géorgie sont grecques et remontent aux VIe-IVe siècles avant J.C. Elles parlent de la Colchide Royaume de la Géorgie occidentale et de l'Ibérie ou Géorgie orientale. Antique pays de l'or, sa renommée s'étend jusqu'en Europe, comme en témoigne la légende de *Jason* venu chercher la *Toison d'Or*. Selon la tradition, l'or était recueilli dans les torrents au moyen d'une peau de bélier posée dans le courant et retenant les paillettes dans sa toison, d'où le mythe de la *Toison d'Or*. Le musée Dzanasia à Tbilissi est riche en pièces d'orfèvrerie. La Géorgie, qui a subi de nombreux revers au cours de son histoire, est un pays imprégné de culture dont témoignent les nombreux monastères, églises et musées mais malheureusement tombée dans l'anonymat depuis la révolution et l'instauration du communisme. C'est *David le Bâtisseur* (1089-1125) et la Reine Tamar qui contribuèrent à son développement économique et culturel en l'enrichissant de

monastères, véritables centres de civilisation à l'instar de Gelati et Ikalto. Eglises, forteresses, icônes, émaux, poésies, dont l'épopée nationale "Le chevalier à la peau de tigre" du grand auteur *Chota Rustaveli*, témoignent de cette grandeur du passé. Tbilissi, la capitale aux rues larges est une cité moderne comprenant une Académie des sciences et onze écoles supérieures. Chaque année depuis 1979, un tronçon de la vieille ville, site historique protégé depuis 1975, était restauré et inauguré en octobre lors de la grande fête populaire du Tbilisoba.

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En 1993, la Géorgie est plongée dans le désespoir : celui de ne pouvoir recouvrer un semblant de vie décente après les conflits meurtriers qui l'ont opposée aux séparatistes Abkhazes et aux Ossètes du Sud. De part et d'autre il n'y a plus que malheur et destruction. Guerres ethniques, désastre économique, criminalité, catastrophes naturelles, tel est le lot de détresse du peuple Géorgien depuis plus de trois ans.

A la guerre civile qui sévissait dans cette République est venu s'ajouter un tremblement de terre d'une magnitude de 6,7 sur l'échelle de Richter qui frappa le pays le 23 octobre 1992. Pour mettre fin à la rebellion nationaliste, la Géorgie est entrée en conflit avec l'Abkhazie, République autonome depuis plus de 70 ans, située aux confins de la Russie et de la Géorgie dont elle fait partie. De même, toujours pour des raisons ethniques, la Géorgie est opposée aux Ossètes du Sud qui veulent être rattachés à l'Ossétie du Nord située dans la République de la Fédération de Russie.

Ces conflits ethniques en Abkhazie et en Ossétie du Sud ont mené la Géorgie à la dérive. Tbilissi, sa capitale, a été saccagée durant les affrontements politiques, et ses habitants doivent faire la queue des heures durant pour obtenir du pain. La situation économique est ainsi devenue de plus en plus désastreuse : diminution de 60% de la production, chute de 50% des exportations, hausse des prix annuelle de 2000%! En avril 1991, un tremblement de terre a endommagé l'infrastructure et la production agricole aggravant ainsi l'économie du pays. Tout comme pour l'Arménie et l'Azerbaïdjan, des problèmes de logistique se sont posé aux organisations humanitaires. Tbilissi, l'ancienne Tiflis, est l'une des plus vieilles cités de l'ex-URSS. Fondée vers 455, pour être la nouvelle capitale du Royaume géorgien, elle fut durant des siècles une étape importante sur les routes commerciales entre l'Europe et l'Asie.

Le déclin économique et les sanglants combats ethniques ont compromis la capacité de certains départements du gouvernement à fournir un minimum d'aide médicale et sociale. Parmi les points les plus alarmants il faut citer l'arrêt forcé du programme de vaccination des enfants, la livraison de vaccins en provenance de la Fédération de Russie ayant cessé depuis mi-1992.

Un exode à travers une route de montagne difficile et dangereuse

Chuberi était encore il n'y a pas si longtemps l'un des 16 villages paisibles de Svanétie, avec 304 familles et 230 réfugiés. Il est devenu le premier village géorgien où sans interruption arrivaient des queues de réfugiés venant à pied des montagnes afin de sauver leur vie. En octobre 1993 on comptait environ 50000 réfugiés fuyant l'Abkhazie vers la Svanétie. La beauté sauvage de la Svanétie, une région située dans le nord de la Géorgie est restée longtemps isolée grâce à ses hautes montagnes et gorges encaissées d'accès difficile. Les attaques continuelles de tribus hostiles firent adopter à ses habitants un type d'habitat : la maison-tour, petite maison surmontée d'une haute tour de guêt. Ce type d'architecture perdure aujourd'hui.

Les habitants de Soukhoumi ont fui en voiture ou en bus jusqu'à Omarishara où ils ont dû abandonner leur véhicule pour marcher à travers la montagne avec leur sacs. Le col est à une altitude de 2741m. La plupart s'arrêtaient dans les forêts du côté Abkhaze pour passer la nuit. Car plus haut la montagne est nue et couverte de neige. Beaucoup de femmes et de personnes agées faisaient partie de cette longue marche. La plupart des réfugiés de Chuberi dormaient dans les rues. Après s'être reposés, ceux qui le pouvaient encore continuaient leur route vers Khaishi, Djvari et Zugdidi ou vers Mestia et puis à travers l'interminable route de montagne pour se rendre en basse Svanétie. Et de là vers Tsageri et Koutaisi. Des camions se sont déjà renversés sur cette route dangereuse faisant nombre de blessés. Beaucoup de réfugiés ont été empoisonnés pour avoir mangé des baies sauvages vénéneuses parce qu'ils n'avaient plus rien d'autre.

Itinéraire d'une mission de coordination des secours du Département des affaires humanitaires (DAH) Octobre 1993

▼ **5 octobre 1993 :** Le délégué du DAH en Géorgie nous informe que des dizaines de milliers de personnes déplacées se trouvent dans les montagnes de la région de Svanétie. Pour la plupart ce sont des femmes, des enfants et des personnes agées qui nécessitent une aide immédiate pour assurer leur survie.

▼ **6 octobre 1993 :** Le DAH à Genève alerte la communauté internationale et les pays détenteurs de moyens militaires et de défense civile (Programme du DAH) afin de fournir une aide adéquate et rapide. Un plan d'action est alors mis en place.

▼ **7 octobre 1993 :** Un appel spécial est lancé pour demander une aide logistique et en espèces s'élevant à 2.8 million de dollars.

▼ **8 octobre 1993 :** Une équipe de "reconnaissance" composée entre autres de responsables du DAH quitte Bruxelles à bord d'un avion belge de type Hercules à destination de la Géorgie, via Pise, (Italie), où se trouve le dépôt de biens de secours du DAH.

▼ **9 octobre 1993 - 20H00 :** L'équipe s'entretient avec le représentant des Nations Unies à Tbilissi, les autorités gouvernementales géorgiennes et autres responsables de l'aide humanitaire.

▼ **10 octobre 1993 - 12H30 :** L'équipe atterrit à Koutaisi capitale régionale de la zone touchée et se divise alors en deux unités : l'une prend contact immédiatement avec les autorités locales et autres membres détenteurs de moyens militaires et de défense civile ayant répondu à l'appel (en plus de 2 hélicoptères géorgiens, l'Ukraine 17 hélicoptères et 150 hommes, l'Arménie 2 hélicoptères et la Fédération de Russie 5 hélicoptères et 20 camions). Une cellule d'urgence est mise en place. L'autre voyage à travers la montagne de Svanétie pour évaluer sur place la situation.

▼ **10 octobre 1993** : Plus de 200 missions par jour sont effectuées par les hélicoptères à destination de Chubéri, en plus des voyages en camions et bus locaux. Ces hélicoptères transportent de la nourriture, des médicaments et de l'essence dans les montagnes et redescendent vers la ville avec les réfugiés.

▼ **11 octobre 1993** : Quelques hélicoptères cherchent les personnes les plus vulnérables de l'autre côté des montagnes. Certaines personnes, exténuées, ne peuvent plus marcher.

▼ **12 octobre 1993** : Une unité du DAH se rend dans la province de Mingrélie pour évaluer la situation. Les responsables du DAH voyagent avec un groupe de personnes déplacées anéanties par le drame de la guerre civile. Elles racontent des histoires d'horreur, la mort de membres de leur famille, des enfants brûlés vifs. Quand elles rencontrent d'autres Géorgiens d'Abkhazie, elles essayent de se renseigner sur leur famille et leurs propriétés car une campagne de pillage est organisée par toutes sortes de groupes armés.

A Zugdidi une cuisine publique a été mise à la disposition des femmes et des enfants : eau chaude, farine ou riz y sont distribués.

Dans la ville de Zugdidi, pendant les 5 derniers jours, 40000 personnes ont pu être placées chez des parents, dans des cinémas, dans le théâtre, et dans des jardins d'enfants.

L'équipe du DAH, suite à des discussions avec l'ex-président Gamsakhurdia*, a pu traverser le pont qui sépare la Géorgie de l'Abkhazie, afin de se rendre compte de l'importance du mouvement de population qui continue toujours à fuir les zones de combats.

▼ **14 octobre 1993** : L'équipe du DAH arrive à Koutaisi, en passant par Chubéri et de là s'est rendue à Tbilissi afin de présenter les résultats de sa mission au représentant des Nations Unies en Géorgie et à la communauté internationale. Simultanément l'équipe commence la planification de l'ouverture d'un corridor humanitaire vers la province de Mingrélie.

*L'ex-président Gamsakhurdia qui contrôlait une partie de cette région, est décédé le 31 décembre 1993.

Dur de vivre avec un salaire de 30000 coupons (monnaie géorgienne) alors qu'il en faut 40000 pour acheter un poulet.

En Mingrélie les réfugiés reçoivent pour tout repas environ 200 grammes de farine par jour.

Ces Géorgiens là ont tout perdu, même l'espoir.

Point de vue :

Le délégué du DAH exprime son opinion (Extraits des propos recueillis le 21 décembre 1993, à Genève)

L'Abkhazie avait un demi million d'habitants avant le début de la guerre au recensement du 1er janvier 1989, elle n'en avait plus que 350 000 lors du cessez-le-feu entre le 27 juillet et le 16 août de cette année. Maintenant, je pense qu'il y a moins de 200 000 habitants parce que les 160 000 géorgiens, habitants de l'Abkhazie, appartenant au groupe ethnique géorgien, ont dû fuir le pays lorsque les séparatistes ont rompu le cessez-le-feu le 16 septembre et ont pris finalement Soukhoumi et toute l'Abkhazie jusqu'à la rivière Ingouri, le 27 septembre.

C'est dans ce contexte que nous arrivons avec notre aide humanitaire, et c'est là que ce pays nous donne une grande leçon. Nous leur apportons certes une aide humanitaire mais eux aussi, en contre partie, nous montrent toutes les richesses que nous avons parfois perdues en Occident : une manière d'être, une manière de penser, une manière de générosité. Nous, ici, à l'ONU, nous essayons de faire bouger la générosité mondiale parce que la Géorgie en a besoin mais ce peuple aussi nous montre une générosité spontanée. Quand il y a 80 000 personnes qui pour sauver leur vie montent dans la montagne, marchent, passent un col à 2 741 m d'altitude dans la neige, avec des petits baluchons, et se retrouvent en haute Svanétie, les habitants de cette région extrêmement pauvre qui ont fait quelques réserves pour l'hiver, partagent tout, donnent tout immédiatement. La même chose pour ceux qui traversent la rivière Ingouri et arrivent en Mingrélie. C'est un pays riche, comparativement aux autres zones de la Géorgie, et bien, les personnes déplacées sont plus nombreuses que les habitants permanents qui les reçoivent et partagent tout avec elles. La générosité se trouve à chaque coin de rue, et aussi envers nous étrangers.

Ce que j'aimerais souligner, c'est qu'il y a une grande différence en Géorgie entre le début du conflit jusqu'à fin septembre et début octobre. Pourquoi? Parce qu'avant personne, comme je le disais tout-à-l'heure, ne s'intéressait à la Géorgie, ne savait ce que c'était. Il n'y a guère que le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge (CICR), je crois, qui était là avant nous et c'est une bonne occasion de leur rendre hommage. Le CICR est toujours là où il faut et à temps. Mais le grand mérite du Département c'est d'avoir, alors que la Géorgie n'intéressait personne, mis en place, structuré une conscience internationale, projeté des plans d'action, et lancé ce fameux appel, déjà le 1er mars, alors que ce n'est que début octobre, que tout à coup tout le monde est accouru. Pourquoi? Parce que le DAH était sur place et a su observer les choses, alerter le monde et c'est pour ça, qu'en quelques jours l'aéroport de Koutaisi, qui est l'ancienne capitale, en plein centre de la Géorgie, était le dernier endroit à la mode. Le DAH a vite lancé un appel d'urgence, parce qu'il y avait urgence, et exploiter l'intérêt du monde entier pour renouveller sont appel.

Le mérite de ce premier appel du DAH c'est que, bien que peu médiatique, il a mis en évidence qu'il y avait urgence même si elle n'était pas très visible alors. **Ce premier appel**

Photo : P. Orloff/DAH

... "A Tbilissi on a toujours de l'eau courante, mais dans d'autres endroits comme vous pouvez le voir sur cette photo, à Soukhoumi il n'y a pas d'eau courante depuis des mois. L'approvisionnement se fait à l'aide d'une citerne de l'hôpital et d'un camion. Les infirmiers viennent avec de vieux bidons" ...

a révélé que, pendant plus d'un an, les enfants n'ont pas été vaccinés parce qu'il n'y avait pas de vaccins et pas de moyens financiers pour en acheter. Il a aussi révélé le fait que l'agriculture nationale pouvait peut-être produire un tiers du blé nécessaire à la consommation locale si tout allait bien mais que l'argent manquait pour acheter le reste de blé nécessaire. Le pain c'est quelque chose de très important en Géorgie, il a toujours été très bon. A Moscou, on avait l'habitude de manger du pain géorgien comme une délicatesse. Quand je suis arrivé au mois de mars, il y avait beaucoup de gens qui ne mangeaient plus que du pain depuis des mois parce qu'ils n'avaient plus les moyens d'acheter autre chose. Mais ils mangeaient encore du bon pain. **Actuellement, le pain est rationné à 300 gr par personne.** Alors quand on n'a pas les moyens d'acheter autre chose que 300 gr de pain par personne, c'est dramatique, et en plus, il est devenu mauvais. Encore une chose qui montre la difficulté d'être pionnier dans cette aide à la Géorgie, c'est que même les catastrophes naturelles sont plus gentilles qu'ailleurs. Il y a des tremblements de terre, des avalanches, mais ça ne fait que quelques dizaines de morts chaque fois, c'est grave pour ces gens, pour ces villages, mais à nouveau, ce n'est peut-être pas assez médiatique.

Au delà de l'augmentation du prix de la vie, les problèmes majeurs qui préoccupent les Géorgiens, sont l'insécurité et la criminalité.

Je vous ai parlé de la diversité géographique, climatique, il y a aussi la diversité ethnique et religieuse qui semble être la cause des guerres en ce moment, mais en fait, je n'y crois pas vraiment. Quand on commence à connaître ce peuple on constate qu'il y a des communautés arménienne, turque, grecque, russe, ukrainienne, mais qu'ils se sentent tous géorgiens, la plupart sont mariés les uns avec les autres. On trouve des communautés dont j'ignorais l'existence et c'est passionnant de découvrir par exemple une communauté assyrienne. Je croyais que cela n'existait plus depuis l'époque de Babylonne et bien, non, il y a une communauté assyrienne très importante, avec ses traditions, son église, sa langue. Tout le monde vit sur cette terre géorgienne en parfaite harmonie : les grecs et les turcs, de même que les arméniens et les azéris. J'ai rencontré très peu de familles Abkhazes qui n'avaient pas un parent géorgien et vice-versa.

Je ne crois pas que les conflits qui opposent la Géorgie à l'Abkhazie et à l'Ossétie du Sud soient vraiment des guerres ethniques, des guerres religieuses, des guerres économiques, c'est plutôt l'histoire qui a accumulé un certain nombre de couches de ressentiment et il s'agirait plutôt de guerres politiques.

A cause des exactions et des atrocités commises, la paix sera difficile à rétablir. Elle ne sera possible qu'avec l'aide de la communauté internationale qui se doit, entre autres, d'apaiser la faim et de soigner les malades. Trente pour cent des hôpitaux du pays n'ont même pas d'eau courante.

Les pays apportent une aide humanitaire bilatérale, directe, très importante. Le nombre des ambassades a dû doubler en quelques mois. Chaque pays prend conscience qu'il y a un énorme travail à faire et, sous l'égide de l'ONU, la gestion et la coordination des structures gouvernementales s'organisent.

J'aimerais, pour conclure, dire qu'il faut surtout ne jamais oublier la spécificité géorgienne et respecter ce peuple qui a l'air d'être complètement désorganisé, mais qui est surtout pris dans une circonstance historique malheureuse.

"La Géorgie est le pays du symbole, de la rencontre entre plusieurs mondes : entre l'Europe et l'Asie, la chrétienté et l'islam. Christianisée dans les tous premiers siècles de l'ère chrétienne, son histoire est très ancienne, de même que son alphabet également très original et ancien. C'est un carrefour de cultures, de religions, de géographie. C'est aussi un symbole d'entente. En effet, c'est ce qui m'a frappé durant mon tout premier jour à Tbilissi. J'ai vu a quelques dizaines de mètres l'une de l'autre, une mosquée, une synagogue, la cathédrale orthodoxe géorgienne, l'église arménienne, l'église orthodoxe russe, faisant partie de la même ville depuis des siècles, vivant ensemble et du point de vue religion et du point de vue ethnique. Maintenant ce peuple s'entretue et se déchire".
(Pierre Orioff, délégué du DAH).

L'interview donnée par M. Orloff, dont les extraits sont donnés plus haut est disponible dans sa version intégrale en anglais, français et espagnol.
Source : Rapports de situation et de missions du DAH. Reuters. Journaux : "Le Monde" et "La Tribune de Genève". L'Etat de toutes les Russies, Editions La Découverte. La Géorgie, d'Ilma Reissner. ■

THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AT WORK JANUARY - APRIL 1994

RELIEF ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

ALBANIA

PESTICIDE HAZARD MANAGEMENT

In March 1994, the UNDP/DHA Resident Representative in Albania contacted DHA to obtain the services of an expert to advise the Government on the management of a quantity of pesticides that was in storage. An expert was identified with the assistance of UNCUEA. He carried out an assessment and collected samples for further testing to serve as a basis for his recommendations to the Government for action.

BOLIVIA

DHA LAUNCHES APPEAL AFTER RAINS

In February and March torrential rains and landslides isolated tens of thousands of poor rural families in the Cochabamba and La Paz Departments. Peasants were deprived of their main source of income since essential agricultural products could not reach their destination. Distribution of incoming food and medicines was also disrupted, increasing the risk of an outbreak of disease.

The Government declared a disaster area and food was airlifted by civil defence authorities. The Bolivian Red Cross appealed for US $250,000 to provide immediate emergency relief. DHA issued an information report and was notified of bilateral donations which included US $60,000 from the Government of Spain and 10 MT of food from the Government of the USA.

COLOMBIA

SUMMER FLOODS

At the end of January river flooding in the Valle de Cauca Department killed 11 people. 8,500 people were affected and 450 dwellings were destroyed. Water distribution networks, bridges and nine roads were damaged. The potential death toll had been reduced due to prior evacuation of high risk communities. Search and rescue as well as relief supplies were provided by national resources. DHA issued two information reports.

CUBA

FLOODS: DHA SUPPLIES RELIEF

Following the floods which affected Cuba in early January, a request from the in-country DHA/UNDP Resident Representative for building/repairing materials was received by DHA. Thanks to the stock of nails offered by the Luxembourg Government to the Pisa Warehouse, one container weighing 18 MT was immediately filled and sent to Havana, where it arrived on 2 February, 1994. They were handed over to Government authorities, together with an emergency grant of US $25,000 donated by DHA for the local purchase of adequate construction material.

GEORGIA

"DHA ACTIVITIES IN GEORGIA FOR 1993"

This report outlining the extensive humanitarian coordination and assistance programme in Georgia for 1993 was issued in March 1994 and was widely distributed to the donor community, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental humanitarian organizations as well as the United Nations Interim Offices in Georgia and Moscow.

INDONESIA

JAVA FLOODS

After prolonged, severe monsoon rains in east Java, Bengawan Solo River overflowed and inundated five districts. The floods left 33 people dead, 1,568 houses totally destroyed and 11,174 partially damaged. DHA issued one information report.

IRAN

FARS PROVINCE EARTHQUAKE

On 1 March 1994, an earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale jolted the city of Firozabad and neighbouring villages in Fars Province, southern Iran. Three people were killed and 31 injured, while more than 3,000 houses were severely damaged. DHA issued one information report.

KYRGYZSTAN

LANDSLIDES

In February and March, the Republic of Kyrgystan suffered the consequences of massive landslides and mud flows, caused by heavy rains and melting snow. Officials estimated that 99 people lost their lives, more than 12,000 were rendered homeless and many roads were blocked or damaged. Communications and

electric power lines were also interrupted. Material losses exceeded US $35 million.

In response to this emergency, DHA issued three Situation Reports and made available an Emergency Cash Grant of US $20 million to meet the most immediate relief needs of the affected population. Approximately US $55,000 in contributions were channelled through DHA and 2,200 blankets were donated by UNHCR.

MADAGASCAR

AIRLIFT OF RELIEF GOODS

After tropical cyclones Daisy and Geralda affected Madagascar in early February and caused widespread floods, DHA, in cooperation with the Japanese Government, organized an airlift of approximately 8 MT of tents and blankets to Antananarivo. As the quantity did not justify the chartering of a plane, these goods, of a total value of approximately US $33,000, were sent by road from the Pisa Warehouse to Zurich, Switzerland and then by commercial airline to Madagascar. They arrived in Antananarivo on 13 February.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES

DOUBLE CYCLONIC FURY

The islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues in the Indian Ocean were affected by two tropical storms in March 1994: Cyclone Hollanda and Cyclone Ivy. A DHA Relief Officer and a member of the UNDAC stand-by team assisted the local UNDP office and the Government of Mauritius in the assessment of the damage and in an evaluation of the relief operations.

While strict enforcement of appropriate building regulations had fortunately prevented major loss of human life and limited the number of injuries, damage to the infrastructure of Mauritius was considerable. For two days following the impact of Hollanda, all communications links with the islands were interrupted. This would have had dramatic consequences if immediate international assistance had been required. The mission furthermore reviewed the implementation of cyclone preparedness measures for both islands, proposed in 1991 as the result of the mission of a former-UNDRO consultant.

MONTENEGRO

MEDICAL SHIPMENT FROM ITALY

In the framework of their activities in Montenegro, the Italian authorities, having received the green light from the Sanctions Committee, requested the cooperation of DHA to deliver a large shipment of medical items, laboratory preparations and vaccines to Podgorica. The trucks, including a refrigerated van, were chartered by DHA to transport the 70 MT of medical items, of an approximate value of US $1 million. The convoy left Italy shortly before Easter and delivered all the goods safely and in good condition on 9 April 1994 to the Health Authorities of Montenegro.

MOZAMBIQUE

CYCLONE NADYA

On 25-26 March 1994, Cyclone Nadya hit Mozambique causing extensive damage to housing, agriculture and virtually all the basic infrastructure of the northern provinces. The Government reported 240 people dead, thousands injured and 1.5 million people who were without shelter and/or had completely lost their agricultural crops two weeks before harvest. DHA issued an international appeal for assistance and immediately provided an emergency cash grant of US $30,000 and made 58 MT of relief and survival items from stockpiles in Maputo, Beira and Quelimane which UNOHAC airlifted in continuous flights to the worst-affected province.

In response to a request from the Government and in line with a recommendation from UNDP Maputo, DHA dispatched a team of experts to the region for two weeks to assist with an assessment of damage and needs and to advise on further action to help the victims. Based on this assessment by the team, and with support from the Governments of Italy, Japan and Luxembourg, an airlift of 22 MT of non-food relief items was sent from DHA's Pisa warehouse directly to Nampula (capital of the most

Mozambique, Cyclone Nadia caused extensive damage to the basic infrastructure in the north. **Photo: S. Metzner/Strack/DHA**

seriously affected province). As of 20 April, DHA had issued seven Situation Reports and contributions reported to DHA amounted to approximately US $3 million.

Peru

DHA Funds Expert Following Floods

DHA has been in close contact with the UNDP/DHA Resident Representative in Lima since February, when heavy rains and flooding caused widespread economic damage across Peru. Severe flooding was reported in Lima and Callao. National emergency services and civil defence authorities distributed relief supplies. DHA funded an national expert to assist the authorities with disaster assessment (report available). The Government declared a state of emergency and an appeal for international assistance was made through DHA. Six Situation Reports were issued.

Intense rains continued into mid-April, causing river levels to rise up to 1.8 metres, destroying roads and bridges and causing generalised flooding. Seismic activity was also recorded in coastal areas. More than 50 deaths were reported. Worst hit were riverside dwellings and crops, much of which were swept away. In all nearly 1,700 housing units were destroyed and 14,734 affected, causing disruption to 89,000 people.

Medical posts lacked means of transport and a risk of outbreak of water-borne diseases was reported. Health care was only possible by boat. Agricultural production was lost on more than 16,000 hectares of land, and food shortages are expected to prevail until the next harvests which are due in September. Donations of US $478,954 have been reported to DHA, including DHA's emergency grant of US $30,000. The United Kingdom contribution of US $100,000 has been used for emergency assistance to rural communities located in the Iparia district, Ucayali, which was one of the most affected areas.

Uganda

Earthquake: Airlift From Pisa

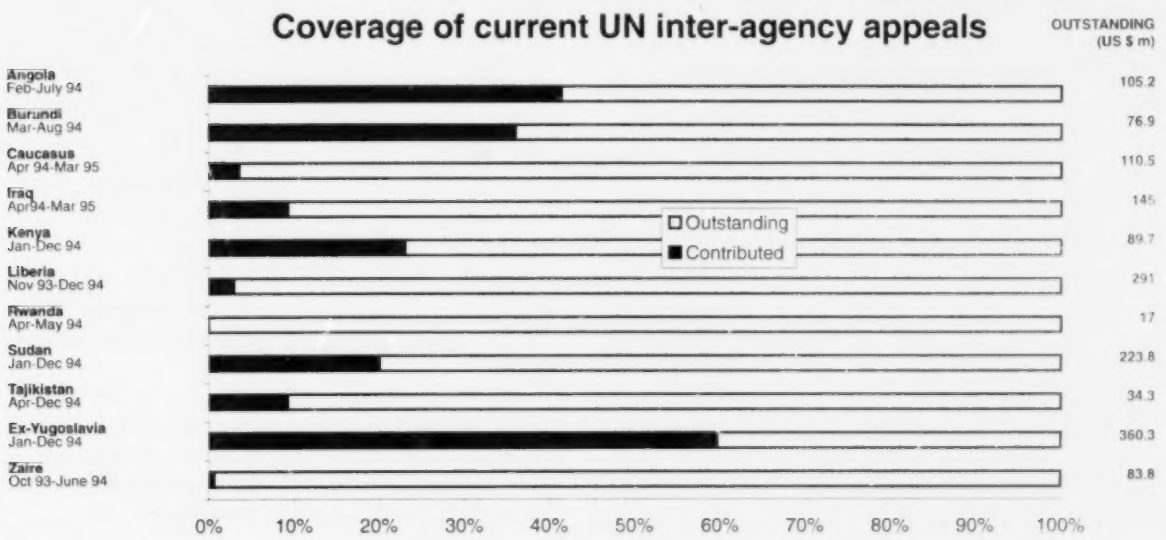
A severe earthquake which registered 6.2 on the Richter scale rocked many parts of Uganda on 6 February, resulting in extensive damage but fortunately few casualties. In response to the request of the UNDP/DHA Resident Representative on 24 February, DHA chartered a Boeing 707 aeroplane from its Pisa Warehouse to Kampala to deliver 35 MT of tents, polyethylene sheeting and blankets, donated by the Italian Government through DHA. The total value of this operation (goods and transportation) was approximately US $190,000.

Ukraine

Medical Response to Floods

Heavy rains and flooding struck several areas in the western part of Ukraine's Transcarpathian region. After consultation with the DHA/UNDP Resident Coordinator in Kiev and the Ukrainian Red Cross, priority requirements were centred on the need for medical supplies. DHA donated US $15,000 which covered the cost of two Emergency Health Kits. These Health Kits will cover the basic medical needs of 20,000 people for three months. In addition, the Government of Switzerland donated 10 MT of milk powder and part of the transport costs, and the Government of Luxembourg offered two and a half MT of hammers and nails from DHA's Pisa warehouse. The shipment, totalling 20 MT, was sent by truck to Uzgorod, where it arrived on 7 February.

A further cash contribution of US $15,000 was received from the Government of the United Kingdom. This sum enabled DHA to acquire two more Emergency Health Kits and also to cover the transport costs. The shipment arrived in Uzgorod on 25 April and was received, like the previous one, by the Resident Coordinator and the Ukrainian National Red Cross representative.



SHIPMENTS FROM DHA PISA WAREHOUSE

JANUARY

In cooperation with the Luxembourg Government, 18 MT of nails and hammers were shipped to Havana (Cuba).

FEBRUARY

In cooperation with the Luxembourg Government, transportation by road from Pisa to Switzerland of 2 MT of nails and hammers for onwards road transportation to Ushgorod, Ukraine, together with 10 MT of milk powder donated by the Swiss Government and two medical kits (WHO standards) purchased with a DHA emergency relief grant.

In cooperation with the Japanese Government, 8 MT of blankets and tents were airlifted to Madagascar.

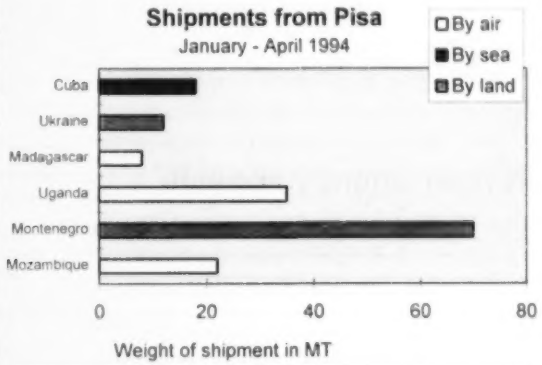
MARCH

In cooperation with the Italian Government, 35 MT of relief items were delivered to Kampala, Uganda.

APRIL

In cooperation with the Italian Government, 70 MT of medical items were transported by road to Podgorica, Montenegro.

In cooperation with the Japanese, Italian and Luxembourg Governments, 22 MT of relief items were airlifted to Nampula, Mozambique.



INTER-AGENCY USE OF PISA WAREHOUSE

NEGOTIATIONS WITH WHO

A draft text of the agreement was being negotiated between DHA and WHO and their legal officers.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH WFP

Discussions were held with WFP representatives concerning use of DHA Warehouse for the stocking of WFP supplies. WFP already delivered 60 MT of high-protein biscuits to Pisa on 22 January.

DISASTER MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

AFRICA

REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF DISASTER MITIGATION

A specially devised questionnaire was sent to all African countries to obtain information on the legal, institutional and practical aspects of their measures to mitigate the effects of naturally occurring phenomena. Information was also sought about each country's strategies and future plans for mitigation. So far, responses from some 20 countries have been received.

PREPARATION OF MID-TERM REPORT ON IDNDR

This report has been prepared on the basis of secondary sources, complemented by information provided by African countries by means of the above questionnaire and contributions from regional and sub-regional research and development institutions. The Report is to be presented to the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning in Addis Ababa in May 1994. Thereafter, it will constitute the principle document on Africa at the Conference in Yokohama.

ARGENTINA, CHILE, COLOMBIA, PERU

CHEMICAL HAZARD ASSESSMENT

DHA assisted UNEP/IEO Paris in organising the mission of a technological disasters specialist to Peru, Argentina, Chile and Colombia. From 18 February through 25 March, the specialist visited the potentially dangerous chemical plants in Bahia Blanca, La Plata, Zárate, Campana (Argentina), Valparaiso, Concepción, Toluca, Santiago (Chile), Lima, Callao (Peru), Baranquilla and Cartagena (Colombia), to assess their safety and the existing emergency plans.

As a follow-up national APELL Workshops will be organised in Peru, Argentina and Chile, supported by UNEP/IEO and DHA.

COLOMBIA

PROGRAMME REVIEW

A DHA coordination officer visited Colombia in March 1994 to review the ongoing DHA Disaster Mitigation Programme and to set up the 1994 Work Plan and Budget.

The 1994 activities will focus on the seismic vulnerability assessment of the infrastructure in Cali and Manizales, identification of probable scenarios, and of protective measures. Similar activities related to tsunami hazards will be carried out in Tumaco.

First Inter-American Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction

DHA provided substantive funding and technical assistance support for the first Inter-American Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, held in Cartagena, Colombia 21 - 24 March 1994. The conference was attended by approximately 800 participants and provided an excellent opportunity for the exchange of national experiences in disaster reduction, within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. The participants adopted the "Cartagena Declaration", which will be presented during the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, to be held 23 - 27 May 1994 in Yokohama, Japan.

Malawi and Guinea

Sasakawa Contribution

The Sasakawa Foundation has decided to donate US $236,000 for technical assistance in disaster management to the governments of Malawi and Guinea. This contribution will allow for the implementation of two DHA projects in these countries.

National Disaster Management Plan

The Government of Malawi has approved the Disaster Mitigation Branch's revised version of the above proposal, for which the Sasakawa Foundation provided the Government of Malawi with a shortlist of suitable candidates for two of the phases of the project. National staff will continue to guide project implementation and provide technical support to other phases.

Saudi Arabia

Civil Defense Consultation

A senior expert, Dr. Mustafa Tag-Eldeen, recruited by DHA through its Disaster Management Branch, undertook a consultancy mission to Saudi Arabia from 21 November 1993 to 20 January 1994. The main objective of this mission was the strengthening of the Civil Defence Administration. Upon completion of the mission, Dr. Tag-Eldeen recommended that:

- the Civil Defence Administration promote an integrated disaster management approach with other inter related activities within the overall development planning policy of the Civil Defence Administration;
- UNDP and DHA jointly develop a follow-up programme of action based on the preparation of two project documents, and the support to implement them in the nearest future.

Thailand

Training Course on Disaster Mitigation

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), DHA and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center-AIT organised in Bangkok, from 16 January to 13 February 1994, a training course for technical personnel associated with disaster prevention and mitigation policy in Asian-Pacific countries. Twenty-nine experts from 13 countries participated in the course, which offered them an opportunity to upgrade relevant techniques and knowledge in the field of disaster prevention and mitigation. This year's course focused on seismic hazard mitigation. It also aimed at strengthening the Asian-Pacific network for seismic hazard prevention and mitigation.

Uganda

Post-Earthquake Reconstruction and Mitigation

Following the earthquake in Western Uganda on 6 February, the Disaster Mitigation Branch identified the specialised experts requested by the Government of Uganda. Dr. J. Studer, an earthquake engineer financed by the Swiss Disaster Relief Unit, has completed the first part of a two-phase project. This helped Ugandan engineers and technicians to commence priority damage assessment and rehabilitation work on public buildings and to provide advisory services to local residents on the repair of non-engineered structures to withstand future earthquakes.

Recommendations made for the second phase include the development of manuals to improve the resistance of non-engineered structures in seismic zones of Uganda, the training of masons and building inspectors, the establishment of research programmes on engineered and non-engineered structures and the review of local building practices to incorporate extreme horizontal loads such as earthquakes and windstorms.

A seismologist, Dr. D. Booth, financed by the Overseas Development Administration (UK), will proceed to Uganda for preliminary work with Ugandan counterparts. He will, *inter alia*, help to develop an earthquake hazard map of Uganda, improve the existing seismological network and define the seismic requirements for very important structures in Uganda, such as dams and large chemical installations.

Disaster Management Workshop

A staff member of the Disaster Management Branch served as trainer-facilitator in the above country workshop in February. As it was held shortly after the earthquake, a visit to the site of the devastation provided an opportunity for an initial assessment of repair needs. A specially designed questionnaire proved useful as a tool for the "country capacity exercise" whereby participants assessed Uganda's resources for addressing past or probable disaster phenomena. This also served as an appropriate prelude to the "Strategic Planning" exercise where participants attempted to devise ways of filling the critical gaps in the country's disaster management profile. Principal among these were the need for comprehensive legislation and the appointment of a national disaster coordinator. ■

SPECIAL EMERGENCY PROGRAMME FOR IRAQ

During the period 1 January - 31 March 1994, the overall economic situation in Iraq deteriorated further. Increasing difficulties were encountered in the financing of essential commodity imports, in particular food, and commodities and spare parts available in the local market were limited. In the northern Governorates, additional hardship was experienced in part due to the very limited supply of food rations reaching the population in this area (only 5 - 7 per cent of the Government's total food rations).

The total value of humanitarian assistance delivered to Iraq under the UN Programme for the period 1 April 1993 - 31 March 1994 amounted to US $123 million, mainly for food and nutrition, health, agriculture, water and sanitation, education, shelter and security. In addition, direct deliveries of assistance representing US $77.5 million were made through NGOs and donor direct/bilateral programmes during the same period.

On 21 January 1994, a DHA consultation meeting was organized in Geneva with the participation of UN agencies, donor and NGO representatives. The meeting reviewed the implementation of the Programme since April 1993 and a number of recommendations were made on priority requirements for the first quarter of 1994, as were estimates for post-March 1994 requirements.

As a direct follow-up of the Geneva meeting, a mission to Iraq was undertaken by a senior DHA finance consultant to review outstanding administrative and financial issues of UNGCI, and to recommend options for more cost-effective operations and sound administrative support systems. These options were subsequently reviewed in New York between DHA and the Field Operations Division, with the participation of the DHA Consultant and the Chief, Special Emergency Programme for Iraq. Also, consultations were initiated in Erbil between the United Nations and CARE for continued UN/CARE cooperation beyond March 1994.

SECURITY INCIDENTS

Between January and early April 1994, about 15 serious security incidents affected the Programme in non-Government controlled areas, occurring mainly in the Governorate of Suleimaniyah. Six UN Guards were injured (two of them seriously) by unidentified assailants. UN/NGO personnel and foreign journalists have been the main targets of these attacks. On 3 April, a German journalist and her bodyguard were shot and killed on the Arbat-Suleimaniyah road. A number of additional security measures have been taken to protect staff.

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs deeply regrets the death, on 18 April, of Mr. Ramisese Tikovei, member of the UNGCI Fijian unit. Mr. Tikovei had been hospitalised in the Al Razi Hospital in Kuwait, after a serious injury sustained in a car accident on 12 March 1994, in Zakho (northern Iraq).

Turkey-Iraq Border
Photo: A. Hollmann/UNHCR

As of 1 April 1994, the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq has entered into its seventh phase, with a new Appeal launched in Geneva for a one-year period (April 1994 - March 1995). The Programme calls for a total of US $289.2 million to address the most essential needs, to sustain rehabilitation activities aimed at promoting self-reliance reducing dependency on external food assistance and as well preventing a further deterioration of the conditions affecting the most vulnerable population groups throughout Iraq.

To that effect, and subject to the availability of the necessary resources, the Programme will provide continued support for increased agricultural productivity and for the resettlement of displaced people in their villages of origin. The Programme also covers basic education and the delivery of essential services such as water supply, health, and electricity. The continued distribution of food aid and the provision of kerosene to the most needy segments of the population is also anticipated.

In view of the tense security situation in the northern Governorates, an important element for the successful implementation of the Programme will be the continued presence of the UN Guards. As of 31 March 1994, 281 Guards were serving in Iraq, the majority located in the north. These Guards are provided by the following countries: Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Fiji, Greece, Nepal, Poland, Thailand and, in addition, by the UN Security/Safety Services in Geneva, New York and Vienna. ■

Special Emergency Programme for the Newly Independent States

Azerbaijan, Uzbek refugees, town of Yevlakh. Photo: M. Alford/UNHCR

Tajikistan

On 6 April, DHA launched a Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Tajikistan totalling US $37.8 million for the period April-December 1994. This Appeal covers the urgent needs of the most vulnerable population groups, estimated at 605,000 people, primarily returning refugees and internally displaced. The humanitarian assistance programme reflects the conclusions of a United Nations Inter-Agency assessment Mission in early February 1994, led by DHA's recently established Special Emergency Programme for the Newly Independent States (SEP-NIS). The Inter-Agency assessment Mission included representatives of FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, WFP and IOM. *(See article on page 5)*

The Causasus (Armenia/Azerbaijan/Georgia)

For three weeks in February and March 1994, a DHA-led Inter-Agency Mission (with participants from FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNV, WHO, WFP and IOM) visited Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, to review the situation and to determine the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable groups.

The conclusions of the Inter-Agency Mission have been presented in a Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia), launched on 29 April 1994. The Appeal, which calls for a total of US $100.3 million, is designed to address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable population groups in these three countries for the period April 1994 - March 1995. The Inter-Agency Appeal incorporates a regional approach aimed at coordinating assistance to the three countries, especially in the areas of transportation, logistics and communications.

Inter-Agency Task Force on the Newly Independent States

Three Task Force meetings, involving UN agencies and NGOs, and chaired by DHA, were held between January and April 1994. Agenda items have mainly focused on the Inter-Agency assessment missions and Appeals for the Caucasus and Tajikistan. Other main issues discussed included the need for a reliable and cost-effective communications system; the proposed establishment of an information database on the NIS countries; and logistics and security problems.

Consultations on The Caucasus and Tajikistan (Central Asia)

DHA is in the process of preparing a series of Consultations on the Caucasus and Tajikistan (Central Asia) to be held in Geneva, New York and in the four countries in question, during May 1994.

These meetings will involve, *inter alia*, the Governments concerned, donors, UN agencies, NGOs, the World Bank and ECHO. The objectives for these meetings include providing information on the current status of the Appeals and reviewing problems and issues regarding the implementation of programmes (including logistics, allocation/earmarking of funds, the humanitarian assistance pipeline, communications, security issues and strategies for the medium/longer term). ■

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

CONSULTATIONS IN NEW YORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

In a year of many concurrent complex emergency operations, in which UN peace-keeping forces and humanitarian aid staff are often working alongside each other in difficult and dangerous circumstances, it has become necessary to endeavour to integrate the planning processes which preceded the fielding of these missions. The planning staffs of the two Departments have accordingly begun to meet at a working level to ensure that exchanges of information and joint undertakings occur regularly in the formative stages of such operations.

Rather than formalising this arrangement on the broad outlines of a modus operandi, and then work closely together through the planning phases of the next several complex emergencies, to learn which types of staff activities can and should be undertaken on a consultative or joint basis. This should provide input for the humanitarian community in decisions regarding size, composition, deployment, etc. of UN forces when protection of humanitarian relief operations are part of the force's mission, and should as well provide a sound basis for cooperation between the peace-keeping and humanitarian elements of UN field operations.

Further developments in this dialogue will be covered in detail in the next issue of DHA News.

COORDINATING UN PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS A PRACTITIONERS' CONFERENCE

The Global Security Programme at Cambridge University, in association with the Royal College of Defence Studies, the Royal Institute of International Affairs and the United Nations Association of the U.K., organized the above mentioned conference, in London on 1-2 June. DHA was invited to take active part in the conference and address the question of humanitarian coordination in the context of multi-functional complex UN operations. The participants of the two-day conference were drawn from the British military, Government and media representatives, academics, UN officials and several NGO representatives.

EIGHTH CONSULTATION ON EARLY WARNING OF NEW FLOWS OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

- DHA convened and chaired the eight inter-agency Consultation on Early Warning of New Flows of Refugees and Displaced Persons at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 3 June 1994. This consultation was the third held so far in 1994. All members were present including FAO, ICRC (Observer), IOM, UN Centre for Human Rights, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and DHA (chair).
- The group reviewed relevant new situations giving rise to concern about potential mass flows and established a list of the cases that would be conveyed to the Secretary-General and the other Executive Heads.
- The group also took up briefly the question of indicators and related methodological issues and considered the meeting schedule for 1994. It was tentatively agreed that the next consultation should be convened in mid-July.

ICVA SEMINAR ON NGO COORDINATION IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

A senior staff member represented DHA at the meeting, held in Oxford, UK 7 - 8 April, which was attended by about 50 representatives of NGOs and NGO Coordination networks across the world. The oldest had started operations in 1958 (Ethiopia and Jordan), the youngest was only some months old (Cambodia). Islamic Coordination movements (notably from Croatia) also participated. UNICEF, FAO and DHA represented the UN.

The stimulating agenda included, from an NGO perspective, topics such as:

- Is coordination a control mechanism?
- Should NGOs set up parallel coordination structures?
- Cooperation with DHA and UN, needs assessment, coordination tools and training.

Strong calls were made for closer attention to be paid to the requirements and activities of national and local NGOs and NGOs networks, and for more training on coordination. The DHA representative, in cooperation with the senior ICVA staff member seconded to DHA, replied to several questions and made a brief presentation on DHA and its new coordination mechanisms (consolidated appeals, IASC, UNDAC, DMTP etc).

WORLD TELECOMS CONFERENCE

DHA participated in the first World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC), organised by the ITU in Buenos Aires 21-29 April. Under the Buenos Aires Action Plan formulated by the conference, developing countries will receive support for the development of their national and international communications links. In this context, the impact of disaster needs to be considered in two ways. The introduction of advanced technology often results in an increased vulnerability of the systems, while the effectiveness and timeliness of humanitarian assistance depends largely in the availability of reliable information. DHA was instrumental in the formulation of a resolution, based on several proposals presented by ITU member states, urging all administrations to facilitate and encourage the provision of less vulnerable back-up communications means, such as portable satellite terminals and amateur radio stations, and to remove national administrative barriers which still restrict the

trans-boundary use of emergency telecommunications equipment.

IAPSO Meeting in Brussels

On 14 and 15 March 1994, a staff member from the Relief Coordination Branch represented DHA in the "Subworking Group on Emergency Relief Items", organized by the Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group (IAPSO) and hosted by the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) in Brussels. The 35 participants from various United Nations agencies, NGOs and the European Community reviewed and discussed the information to be contained in various chapters of a catalogue on emergency relief items, on which IAPSO is working in cooperation with DHA.

Study on Emergency Stockpiles

In compliance with operational paragraph 20 of General Assembly Resolution 58/57, DHA has undertaken a study on emergency stockpiles to provide "recommendations on ways and means to improve the operational capacity of the emergency stockpiles, as well as analysis of the advantages and disadvantages, including promptness of the response and cost-effectiveness, of the establishment of regional warehouses, taking into account the existing facilities and the possibility of strengthening them".

A member of the DHA Relief Coordination Branch has had meetings with the representatives of the following emergency stockpile holders: UNICEF, UNHCR, NOREPS (Norway), JICA (Japan) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Data was collected on their experience in establishing and operating emergency stockpiles and views on the need for, possibility and ways of strengthening the existing facilities.

Register of Emergency Stockpiles

As directed by General Assembly Resolution 46/182, DHA has established the Register of Emergency Stockpiles of disaster relief items available for international assistance. The Register contains information on 50 emergency stockpiles run by different humanitarian organisations oriented towards providing disaster relief items to disaster-stricken countries.

The Register contains details on each stockpile's location, the organisation responsible, contact persons, disaster relief items stocked and their specifications, regions and organisations covered, conditions and procedures for access to the stocks, existing facilities and arrangements for transport and Customs clearance, and previous experience in relief operations. The Register will be available from July 1994 and will be distributed to recognised international and relief organisations and to governmental disaster management focal points.

This project is implemented by DHA within the framework of its global project to establish a Central Register of Disaster Management Capacities. ■

The UNIENET Corner

DHA Situation Reports are distributed via an automated mailing list service. Internet and Bitnet users can subscribe to this service. Subscriptions and cancellations are handled directly by sending specific commands to the following address:

Listserv@disaster.cprost.sfu.ca

To obtain the list of commands recognized by the listserver, send the command:

!nformation dha-sitreps

The new UNIENET system

Access to the Internet is absolutely essential in today's technology because it offers a more effective exchange of information via distributed information systems and the ability to integrate disaster management involved organizations connected to the Internet. UNIENET will soon be moving to a new more powerful host computer located in Geneva and connected to a reliable Internet link.

Any Internet user will be able to access UNIENET information via shared or distributed systems as well as other services:

- electronic mail, file transfer and access to remote host computers;
- ability to use interlinked distributed systems for information dissemination such as Gophers and World Wide Web;
- simultaneous distribution of electronic messages to specific mailing lists.
- system accessibility through the Internet, Packet Switched Public Data Network (X.25) and Public Switched Telephone Network (dial up);

Should you need more information, please contact your Network System Manager DHA - Geneva
Dialcom 141:UNX002; Internet UNX002@cgnet.com ■

DMTP Corner

DISASTER MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME

The series of DMTP country workshops continued in early 1994. UN-cadre trainers participated actively in those of Uganda, and Malawi. Final preparations were made for workshops in Egypt, Pakistan and Myanmar.

Planning continued for the meeting organised by DMTP Africa for six African Regional Collaborating Institutions (RCIs). The meeting will be in two parts, the first a discussion with the executive heads of each RCI on the DMTP Africa network and to sign a cooperation agreement with each RCI. The second part will be a workshop for DMTP focal points on the concepts, programmes and work methods of DMTP Africa and a discussion of disaster management capacity building in Africa.

Two Inter-Agency consultations have taken place since January. The first covered the following main topics:

- a review of emergency management training activities
- field involvement and UN-DMT
- DMTP training materials, including a common inter-agency module which would provide definitions and clarification of concepts and terms that all agencies share
- cadre training and the forthcoming "Train the Trainers" workshop
- the inter-agency manual to facilitate coordination (agreed to in principle during the inter-agency meeting in July 1993), for which a consultant has been contacted to assemble the technical aspects of the subject.
- DMTP Mark II, which was to be the subject of another meeting. This second meeting discussed a paper summarising the proposed characteristics of DMTP Mark II. Agencies agreed to provide proposals/requests on distinct areas of DMTP Mark II.

Following the meeting between Mr. Nissim Tal of the International Training Centre of the ILO and members of the DMTP joint management at which modalities of cooperation were discussed, understanding was reached on the following areas:

- use of UN-DMTP training materials
- use of DMTP resource persons
- simulation exercises
- speciality disaster workshops at Turin
- the forthcoming Coordination Workshop for UN Staff in Disaster-Prone Countries.

A series of DMTP management meetings was held in February, beginning with a mini-coordination meeting which discussed, amongst other things, DMTP fund-raising, links with the continuum, Mark II and a regional review in Latin America and Asia. Forthcoming staffing changes were also on the agenda. In this connection, a new Disaster Management Training Expert will join the DMTP Unit in DHA at the beginning of May.

A DMTP Africa Assessment Meeting then followed, attended by the Africa Coordinator and covering a wide variety of topics of an administrative as well as a substantive nature. It was felt that such meeting were extremely useful and should be held periodically.

Financial support pledged by the Govern-ments of Finland and the United Kingdom during last year's Donors' Meeting has now been received.

DMTP Training Modules and Guides continue to generate a lot of interest. All are now available in English and many also in French, Spanish and Arabic. Several DMTP research papers have been prepared and information of these may be obtained from UN-DMC.

DHA VIDEO LIBRARY

In March 1994, DHA completed its Videocassette Catalogue. The catalogue, now available on in-house computer networks, is a comprehensive listing and description of the growing collection of videos on humanitarian relief, natural disasters, the United Nations and NGOs in DHA's collection. The catalogue is organised by geographical region, by subjects and organisation, and can be obtained from Ms. Denise Wyngaard, DHA, Room 301-9, Palais des Nations, 8-14, Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

CENTRAL EMERGENCY REVOLVING FUND
Status of Utilization of the Fund
(As of 31 May 1994)

A. Advances in 1992/93/94		Advances	Date Disbursed	Date Due
UNICEF	(Somalia)	5,000,000	21 Aug 92	
UNICEF	(Kenya)	2,000,000	21 Aug 92	
UN Coordinator of Humanitarian Assistance in Somalia(UNCHAS)	(Somalia)	500,000	10 Sep 92	
FAO	(Somalia)	1,600,000	23 Sep 92	
WHO	(Somalia	2,000,000	22 Oct 92	
UNICEF	(Iraq)	5,000,000	9 Nov 92	
UNHCR	(Afghanistan)	5,000,000	11 Nov 92	
UNICEF	(Mozambique)	2,000,000	22 Jan 93	Nov 93
WFP	(Tajikistan)	4,500,000	25 Mar 93	Feb 94
WHO	(Yugoslavia)	2,500,000	26 Mar 93	Dec 93
UNHCR	(Georgia)	2,000,000	22 Apr 93	
UNICEF	(Iraq)	5,000,000	14 Jun 93	
UNHCR	(Tajikistan)	5,000,000	21 Jun 93	Dec 93
WFP	(Iraq)	4,000,000	9 Jun 93	Apr 94
UNICEF	(Haiti)	1,000,000	23 Jul 93	Jan 94
WFP	(Lebanon)	560,000	31 Aug 93	Dec 93
HABITAT	(Lebanon)	5,000,000	7 Sep 93	Mar 94
UNICEF	(Iraq)	7,000,000	28 Oct 93	Feb 94
UNHCR	(Burundi)	5,000,000	18 Nov 93	May 94
WFP	(Burundi)	5,000,000	22 Dec 93	Jun 94
IOM	(Zaire)	1,000,000	6 Jan 94	Jun 94
UNICEF	(Angola)	1,500,000	6 Jan 94	Jun 94
UNICEF	(Sudan)	1,000,000	10 Feb 94	Jul 94
FAO	(Sudan)	200,000	23 Feb 94	Oct 94
UNICEF	(Former Yugoslavia)	1,000,000	15 Mar 94	Aug 94
UNDP	(Kenya)	500,000	18 Mar 94	Sep 94
WHO	(Yugoslavia)	2,500,000	29 Mar 94	Sep 94
UNICEF	(Somalia)	4,870,000	21 Apr 94	Dec 94
UNREO	(Rwanda)	200,000	28 Apr 94	Oct 94
UNHCR	(Tajikistan)	3,000,000	23 May 94	Aug 94
UNHCR	(Rwanda)	10,000,000	31 May 94	Aug & Dec 94
Total Advances		($95,430,000)		

B. Reimbursements in 1992/93/94		Reimbursement	Date Disbursed	Date
UNICEF	(Somalia)	5,000,000	21 Aug 92	22 Dec 92
UNICEF	Kenya	1,388,889	21 Aug 92	31 Dec 92
		611,111	21 Aug 92	21 Oct 93
UNCHAS	(Somalia)	459,472	10 Sep 92	15 Mar 93
WHO	(Somalia)	2,000,000	22 Oct 92	16 Mar 93
UNHCR	(Afghanistan)	5,000,000	11 Nov 92	30 Mar 93
UNICEF	(Iraq)	5,000,000	9 Nov 92	16 Apr 93
FAO	(Somalia)	1,600,000	23 Sep 92	27 Jun 93
UNHCR	(Georgia)	2,000,000	22 Apr 93	16 Sep 93
UNICEF	(Iraq)	5,000,000	14 Jun 93	21 Oct 93
UNHCR	(Tajikistan)	5,000,000	21 Jun 93	Dec 93 & May 94
WFP	(Lebanon)	560,000	31 Aug 93	3 Jan 94
UNICEF	(Iraq)	7,000,000	28 Oct 93	1 Feb 94
UNICEF	(Mozambique)	566,114	22 Jan 93	2 Feb 94
HABITAT	(Lebanon)	444,906	17 Sep 93	21 Mar 94
UNICEF	(Haiti)	238,500	23 Jul 93	25 Apr 94
WHO	(Yugoslavia)	2,500,000	23 Mar 94	5 May 94
WFP	(Tajikistan)	1,134,310	10 Mar 93	6 May 94
WFP	(Iraq)	400,000	11 Jun 93	6 May 94
WFP	(Burundi)	5,000,000	16 Dec 93	6 May 94
FAO	(Sudan)	200,000	23 Feb 94	16 May 94
UNHCR	(Burundi)	5,000,000	16 Nov. 93	May 94
Total Reimbursements		$56,103,302		

C. **Status of Utilization of the Fund**:

Contributions received:		$48,865,992
Less:	Advances	(95,430,000)
Add:	Reimbursements	56,103,302
Add:	Interest Earned	1,301,327
Fund Balance as of 31 May 1994		$10,840,621

CENTRAL EMERGENCY REVOLVING FUND
Status of Contributions
(As of 31 May 1994)

	Pledges	Collections	Date Paid
Australia	800,000	743,600	27 Jul 92
Austria	500,000	500,000	30 Mar 92
Belgium	330,000	327,327	17 Sep 92
Canada	2,300,00	2,195,321	16 & 22 Jun 92
Colombia	10,000	10,000	4 Feb 93
Denmark	2,000,000	1,999,985	31 Aug 92
Finland	1,500,000	1,533,804	18 Jun 92
France	5,600,000	934,579	16 Nov 92
		4,545,455	8 & 27 Jan 93
Germany	5,000,000	5,000,000	30 Jun 92
Holy See	50,000	50,000	22 May 92
Iceland	10,000	10,000	6 Jul 92
Ireland	100,000	100,000	18 Jun 92
Italy	5,000,000	4,284,184	10 Dec 92
Japan	5,000,000	5,000,000	27 Jul 92
Korea, Republic of	50,000	50,000	11 Jun 92
Liechtenstein	7,000	6,641	10 Apr 92
Luxembourg	100,000	100,000	13 Aug 92
Malaysia	20,000	20,000	15 Jun 93
Mauritius	10,000	10,000	1 Jul 92
Netherlands	3,000,000	3,083,590	12 Jun 92
New Zealand	140,000	136,825	23 Mar 92
Norway	1,850,000	1,849,970	5 May & 10 Jun 92
Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	5,000	5,000	6 Oct 93
Spain	750,000	671,544	7 Jun 93
	88,453	88,453	4 Mar 94
Sweden	2,750,000	2,408,744	25 Nov 92
Switzerland	2,000,000	999,985	25 Aug 92
		999,985	& 13 Jan 93
United Kingdom	5,000,000	5,000,000	24 Apr 92
United States	6,200,000	2,500,000	15 Apr 92
		3,700,000	23 Feb & 19 Jul 93
NGOs	1,000	1,000	17 Jun 92
Total Contributions	**$ 50,191,453**	**$ 48,865,992**	

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